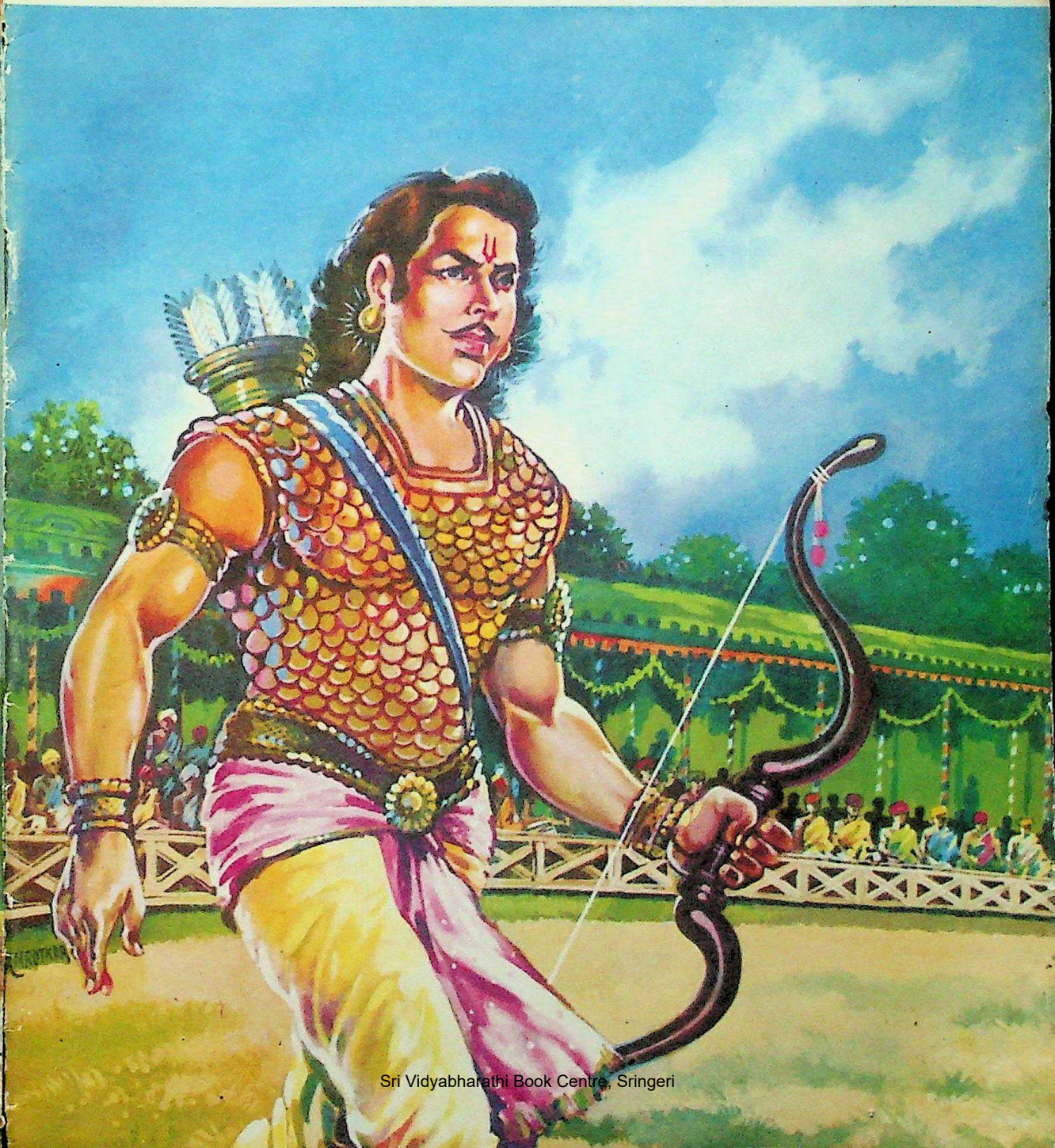




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ENTER KARNA



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 339 August 15, 1985

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The Mahabharata is the longest epic known to man. It is also what may be called the total epic because, besides being a literary classic, it is a supreme work of philosophy and an exhaustive manual of morals and manners.

The origin of the Mahabharata is shrouded in mystery. Countless scholars have pried into the work to discover the personality of its author, Veda Vyasa, to pin down its date of composition, and to analyse its historical veracity. But doubts still persist on all these counts.

Was it possible for one person to compose over a hundred thousand verses? Handed down by oral tradition, was the Mahabharata written down in 800 B.C. or 600 B.C. or 300 B.C.? Can the levels of Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware, or the names of present-day cities and plains, or the radio-carbon tests of excavated materials, vouch for its historicity? There is no conclusive answer.

The core of the tale – the feud between the princely cousins, the Pandavas and the Kauravas, leading to the eighteen-day-long bloody war – must have had its roots in some real event. The text with its available recensions points to three oral versions: the first as recited by Veda Vyasa himself, the next as recited by his disciple Vaishampayana to Janamejaya, and the third as narrated again by one Sauti, who had heard Vaishampayana's recital. Additions and interpolations must have crept in at various times, till the advent of the printing-press and standard editions.

Amar Chitra Katha has already presented many popular stories from the Mahabharata, chosen for their emotional and dramatic appeal and often modified to suit the Chitra Katha mode.

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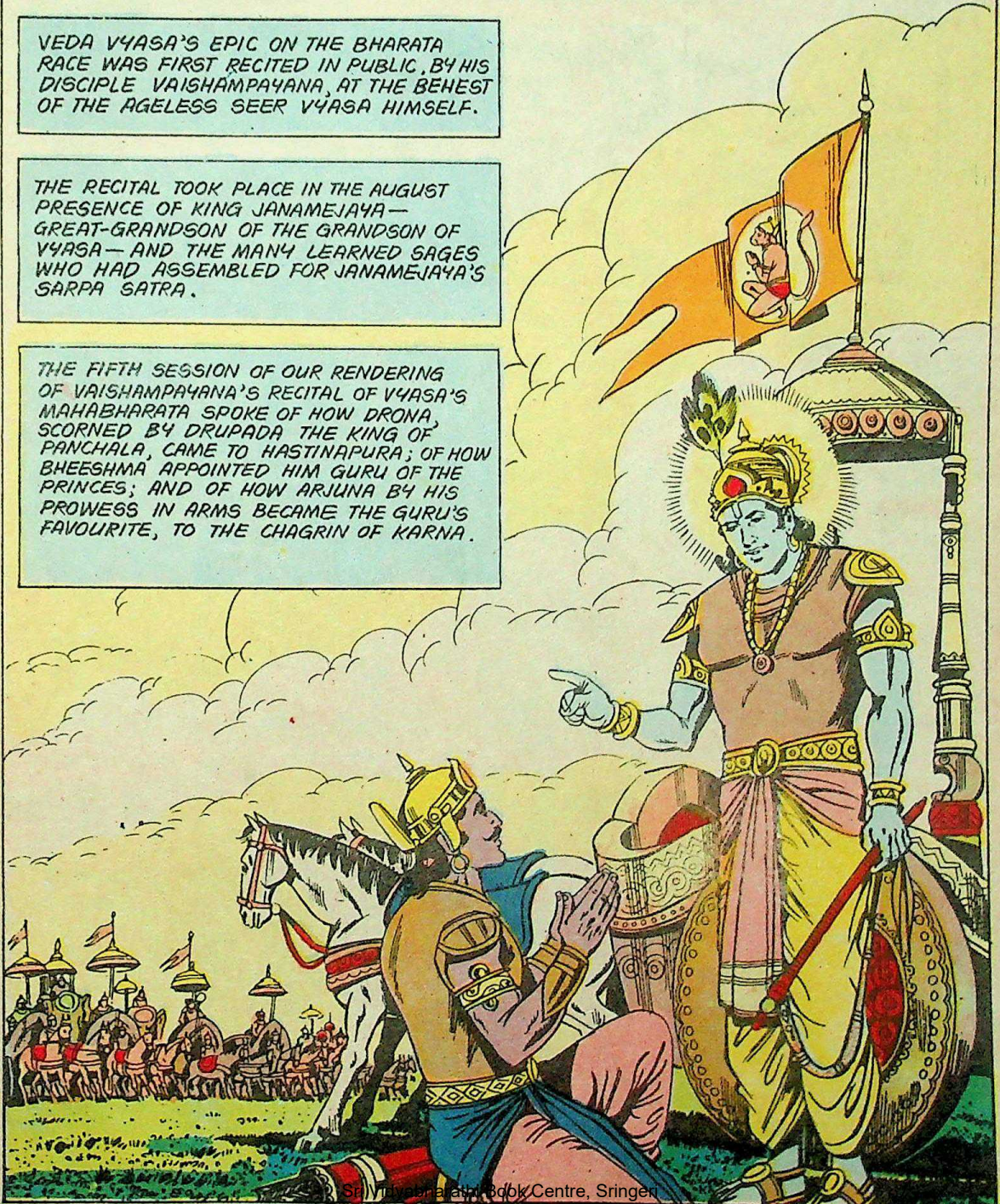
Mahabharata-6

ENTER KARNA

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

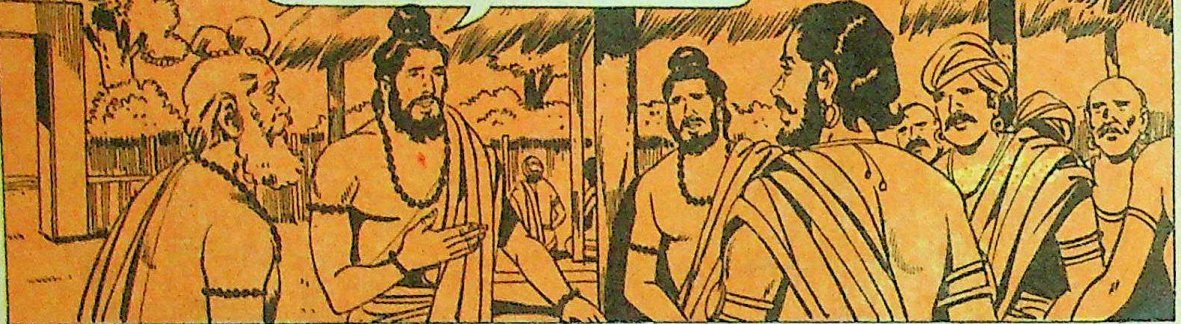
THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA— GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA— AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA.

THE FIFTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA SPOKE OF HOW DRONA, SCORNFUL BY DRUPADA THE KING OF PANCHALA, CAME TO HASTINAPURA; OF HOW BHEESHMA APPOINTED HIM GURU OF THE PRINCES; AND OF HOW ARJUNA BY HIS PROWESS IN ARMS BECAME THE GURU'S FAVOURITE, TO THE CHAGRIN OF KARNA.



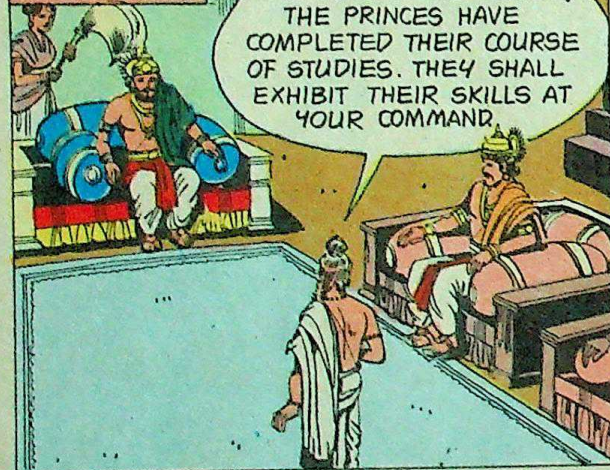
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O MONARCH, WHEN DRONA KNEW THAT THE SONS OF DHRTARASHTRA AND PANDU HAD MASTERED THE MARTIAL ARTS, HE ADDRESSED THE BLIND KING IN THE PRESENCE OF BHEESHMA, VIDURA, OTHER KURU ELDERS AND KRIPA...



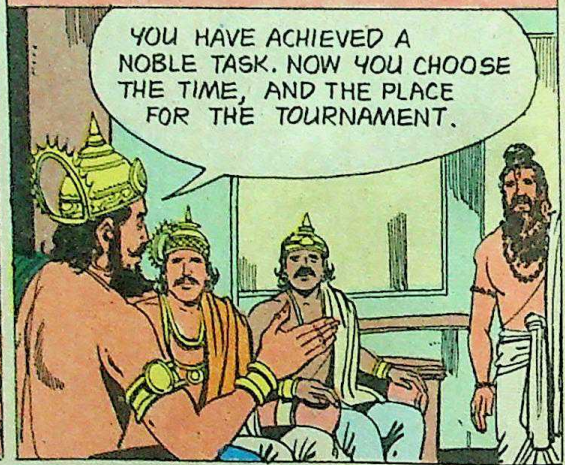
...AND SAID:

O KING OF THE KURUS, THE PRINCES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COURSE OF STUDIES. THEY SHALL EXHIBIT THEIR SKILLS AT YOUR COMMAND.

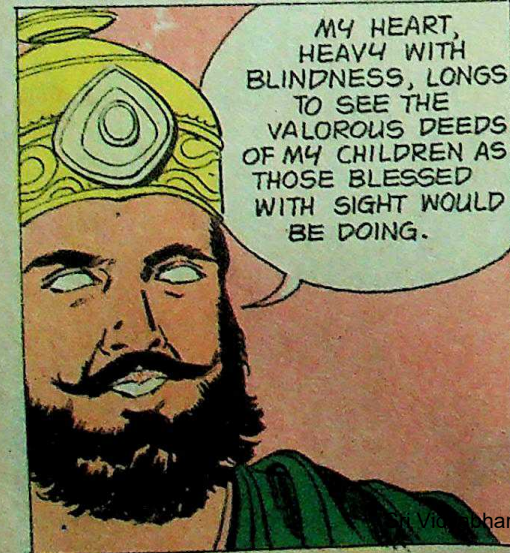


"THE KING, PLEASED TO HEAR THIS, SAID:

YOU HAVE ACHIEVED A NOBLE TASK. NOW YOU CHOOSE THE TIME, AND THE PLACE FOR THE TOURNAMENT.



MY HEART, HEAVY WITH BLINDNESS, LONGS TO SEE THE VALOROUS DEEDS OF MY CHILDREN AS THOSE BLESSED WITH SIGHT WOULD BE DOING.

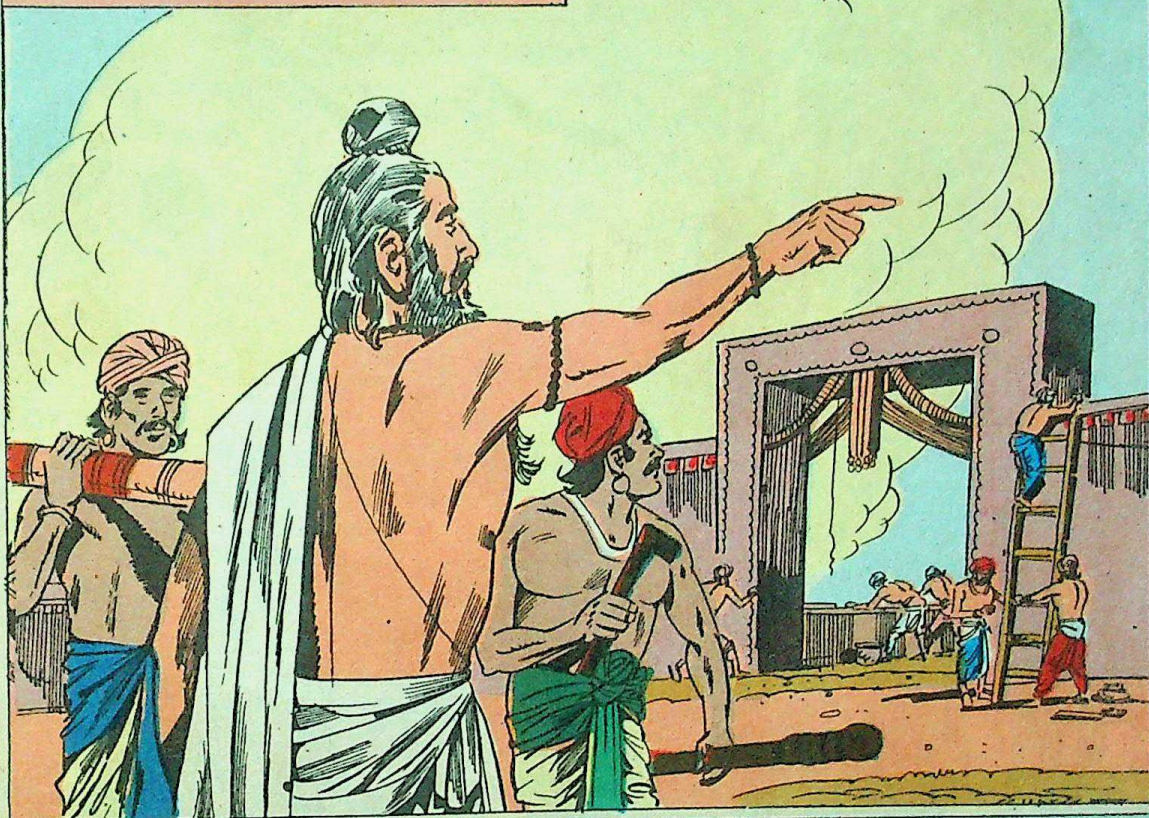


WISE VIDURA, LET PREPARATIONS BE MADE AS DRONA WOULD HAVE THEM, AND I SHALL BE PLEASED.



ENTER KARNA

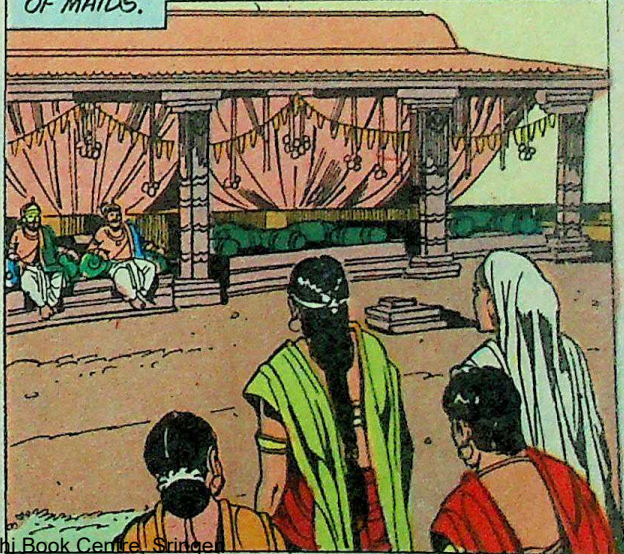
"DRONA MEASURED OUT A PIECE OF SUITABLE LAND AND HAD IT SANCTIFIED AT AN AUSPICIOUS TIME. THERE THE CRAFTSMEN BUILT PAVILIONS FOR THE ROYALTY; AND WEALTHY CITIZENS HAD TENTS PITCHED FOR THEMSELVES.



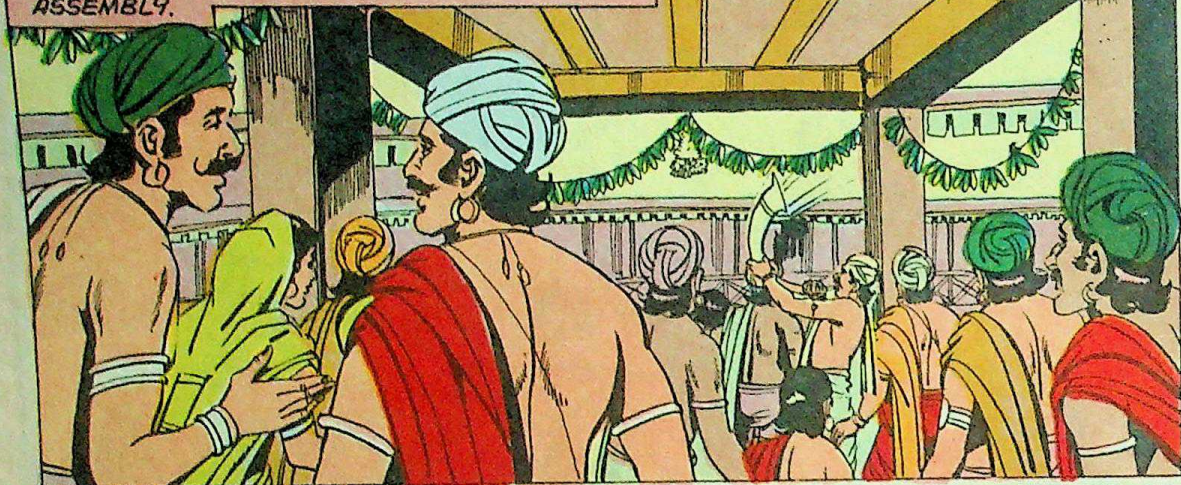
"ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT, THE KING MADE HIS ENTRY ACCOMPANIED BY BHEESHMA, KRIPA AND THE RETINUE OF MINISTERS.



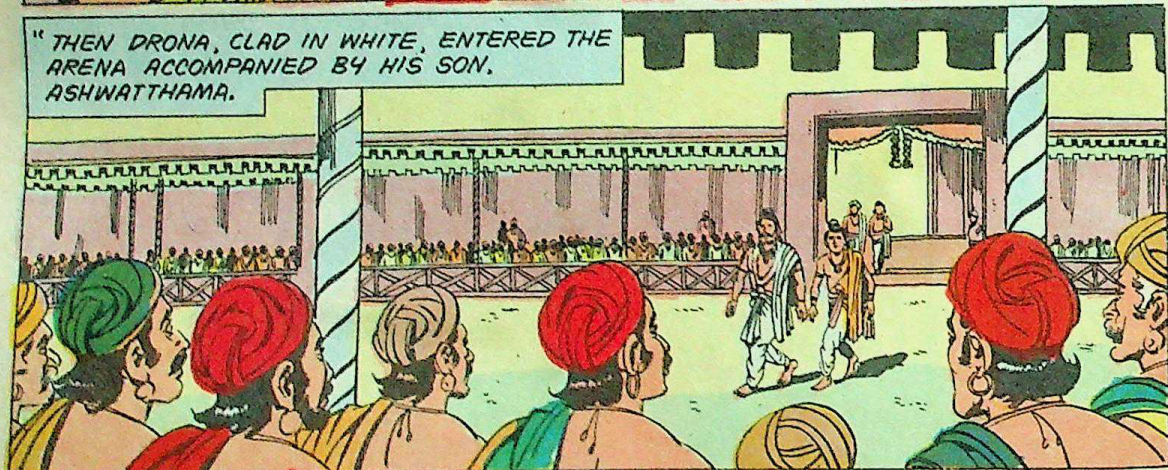
"THEN CAME GANDHARI AND KUNTI AND OTHER IMPERIAL WOMEN WITH THEIR RETINUE OF MAIDS.



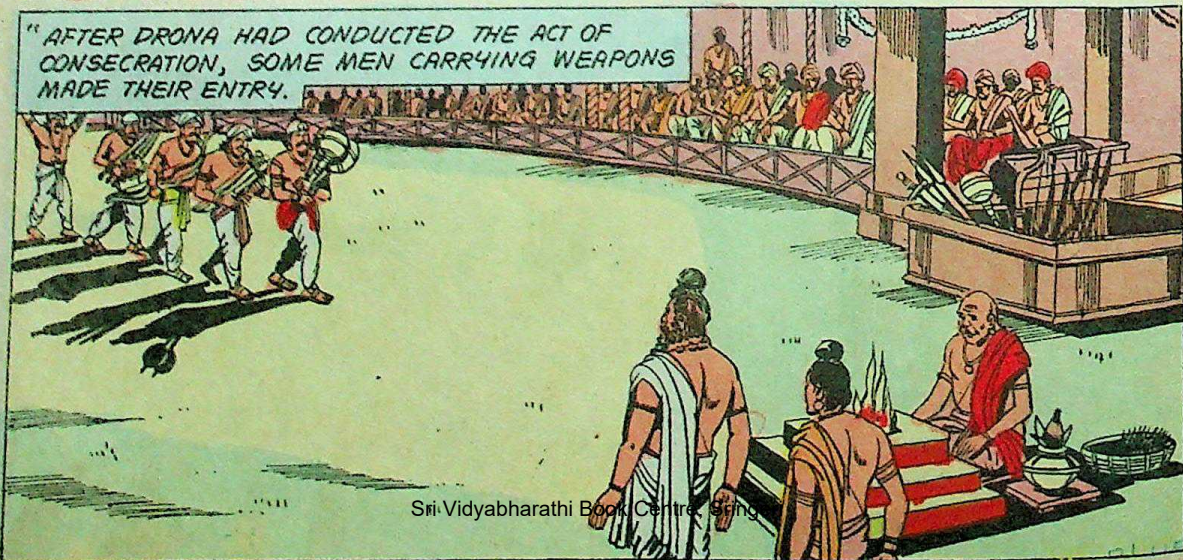
"AND MEN AND WOMEN OF DIVERSE STATIONS AND ORDERS, EAGER TO WITNESS THE FEATS OF THE PRINCES, THROGGED THE SPOT TILL IN A SHORT WHILE THERE GATHERED A VAST ASSEMBLY."



"THEN DRONA, CLAD IN WHITE, ENTERED THE ARENA ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON, ASHWATTHAMA."

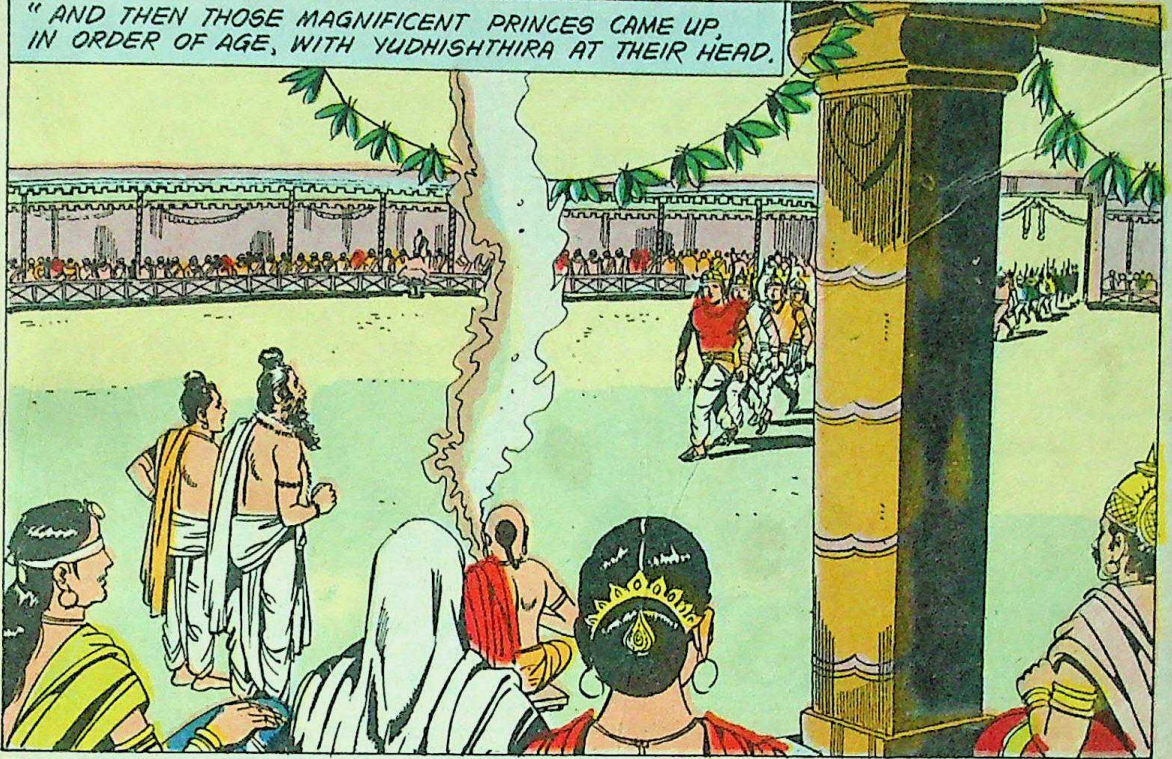


"AFTER DRONA HAD CONDUCTED THE ACT OF CONSECRATION, SOME MEN CARRYING WEAPONS MADE THEIR ENTRY."

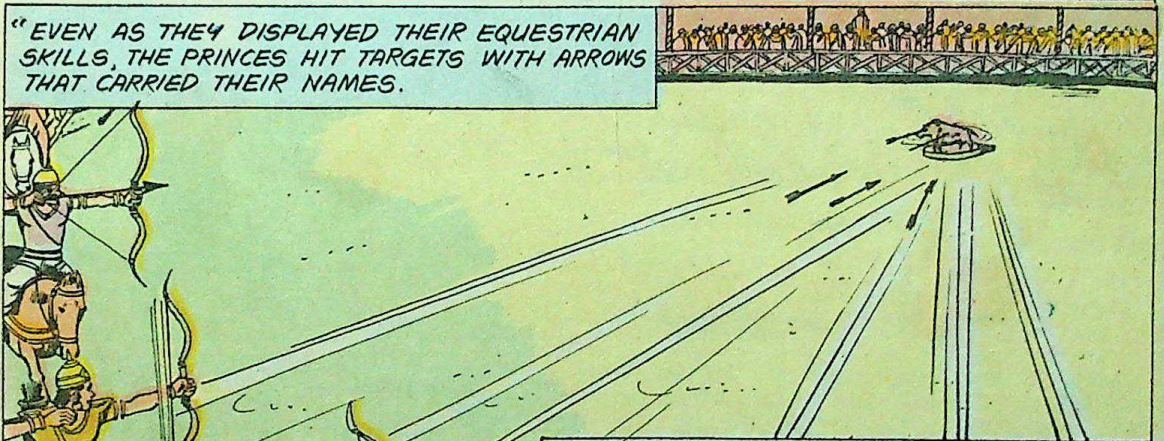


ENTER KARNA

"AND THEN THOSE MAGNIFICENT PRINCES CAME UP,
IN ORDER OF AGE, WITH YUDHISHTHIRA AT THEIR HEAD.



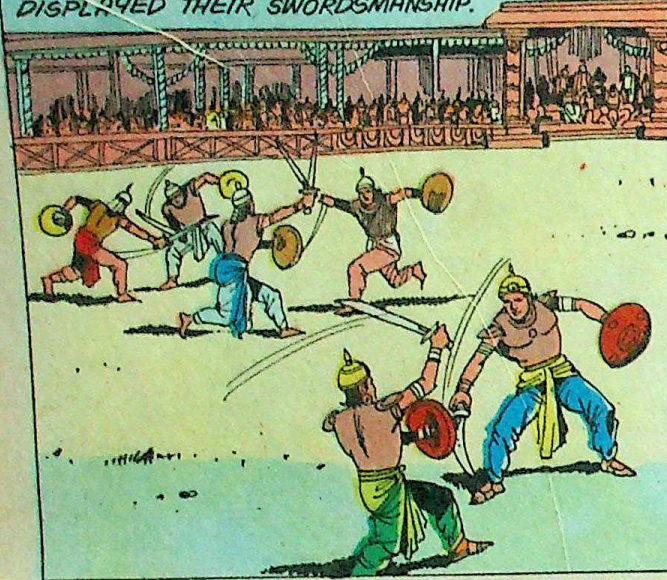
"EVEN AS THEY DISPLAYED THEIR EQUESTRIAN
SKILLS, THE PRINCES HIT TARGETS WITH ARROWS
THAT CARRIED THEIR NAMES.



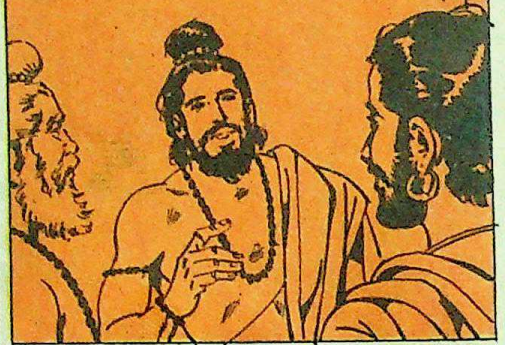
"AND THE SPECTATORS EXCLAIMED:



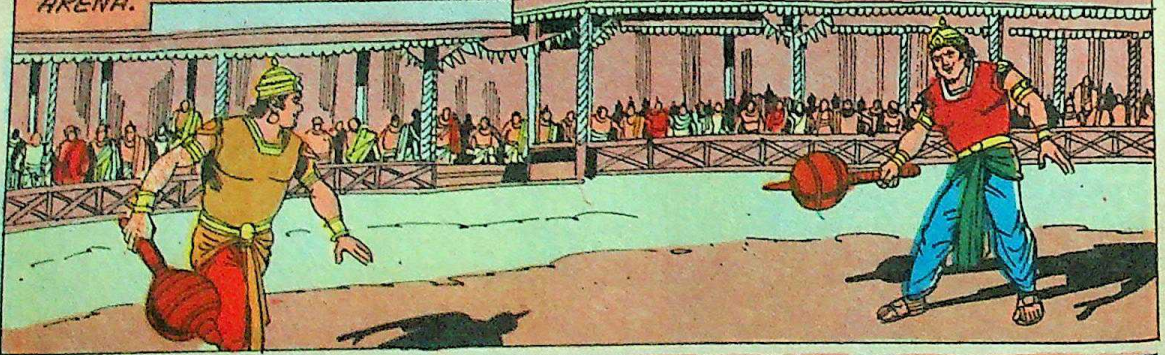
"PROGRESSIVELY THE PRINCES EXHIBITED THEIR SKILL IN ARCHERY, IN CHARIOT RALLIES, IN FIGHTS ASTRIDE ELEPHANTS AND HORSES, AND IN FREE-HAND COMBATS. LAST OF ALL THEY DISPLAYED THEIR SWORDSMANSHIP.



WITH THE SWORD AND THE BUCKLER, O MONARCH, THEY REVEALED THROUGH WELL-WROUGHT BODIES THEIR FIRM STANCE, STRONG GRIP AND NIMBLE TURNS.



"AND THEN THE CONSTANT RIVALS, BHEEMA AND DURYODHANA, MOVED INTO THE ARENA.



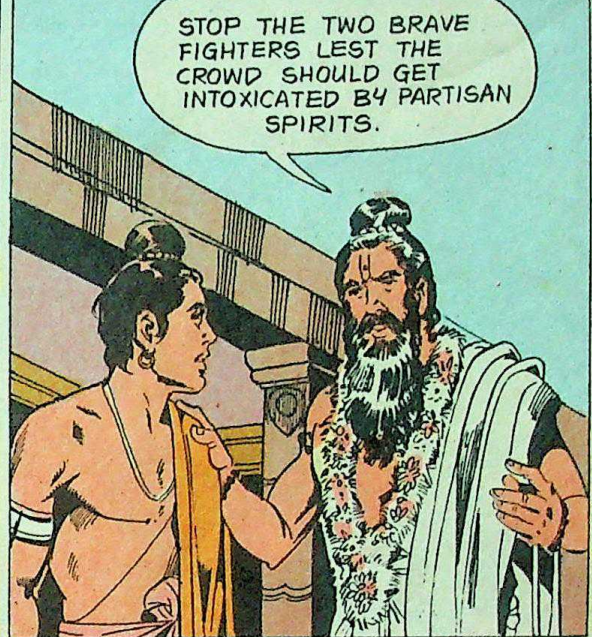
"THEY FOUGHT, MOVING NOW TO THE LEFT, NOW TO THE RIGHT, NOW IN A CIRCLE AND NOW ALL OVER, LIKE TWO ENRAGED ELEPHANTS. AND VIDURA DESCRIBED EACH MOVE TO DHRITARASHTRA AND KUNTI TO GANDHARI.



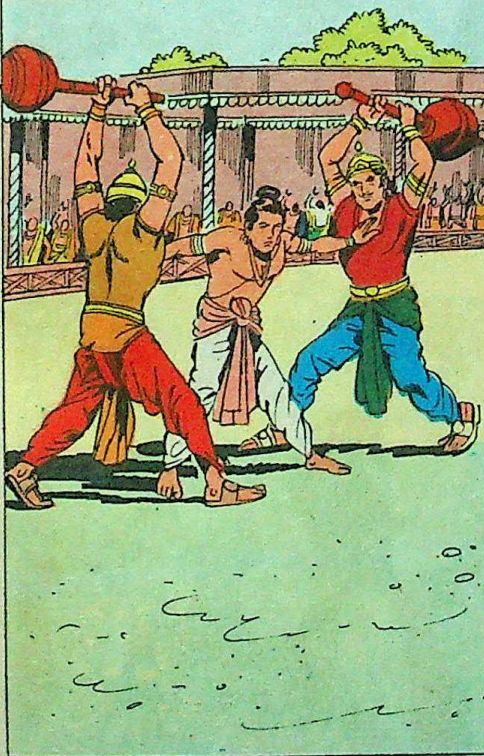
"THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO SPLIT THE CROWD. SOME CHEERED ONE, SOME THE OTHER.



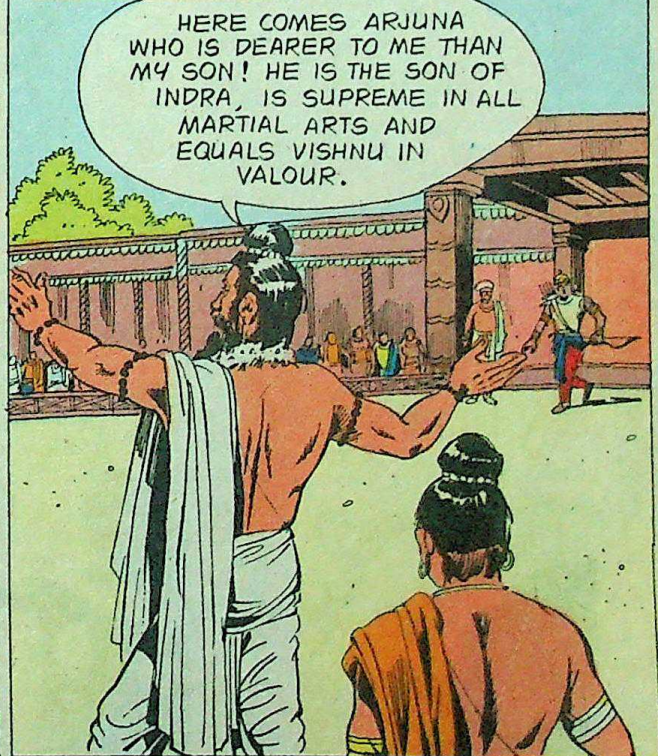
"AND PERCEIVING THIS, THE CLEVER DRONA SAID TO HIS SON:



"ASHWATTHAMA RUSHED INTO THE ARENA AND RESTRAINED THE TWO WARRIORS.



"THEN DRONA CAME INTO THE ARENA AND, ORDERING THE MUSIC TO BE STOPPED, SAID IN A RINGING VOICE:



"HAVING INVOKED DIVINE GRACE, ARJUNA, CLAD IN GOLDEN COAT OF MAIL, STOOD LIKE A CLOUD SET ABLAZE BY THE EVENING SUN. THE DELIGHTED CROWD HAILED HIM EXCLAIMING:

THIS IS THE SON OF MIGHTY INDRA!

HE IS THE REDEEMER OF THE KURUS!

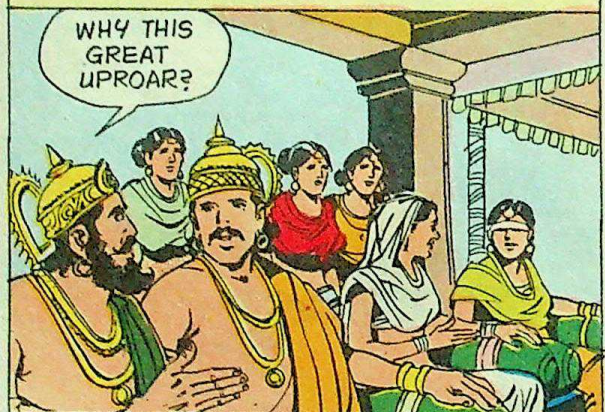
THIS IS THE SON OF KUNTI!

THIS IS THE THIRD PANDAVA!



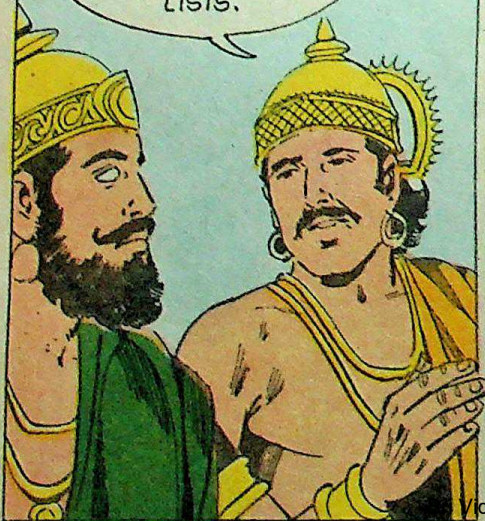
"THESE LOUD EXCLAMATIONS BROUGHT TEARS OF JOY TO KUNTI'S EYES, AND MADE DHRITARASHTRA ENQUIRE OF VIDURA."

WHY THIS GREAT UPROAR?



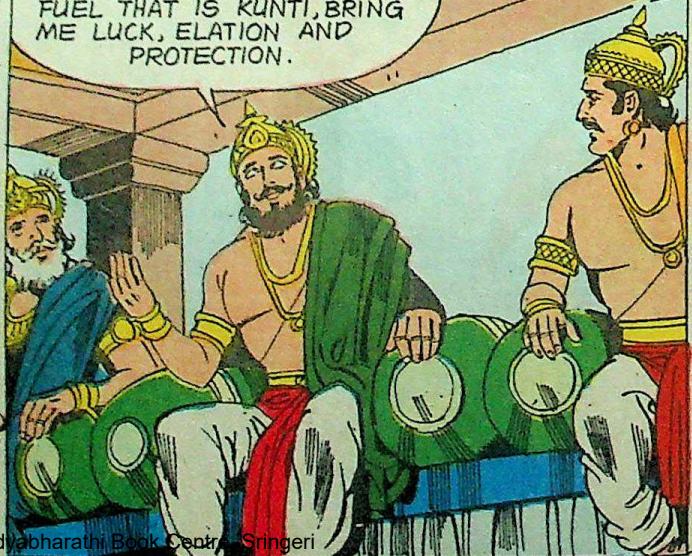
"VIDURA REPLIED:

ARJUNA, THE SON OF PANDU, HAS ENTERED THE LISTS.



"AND DHRITARASHTRA SAID:

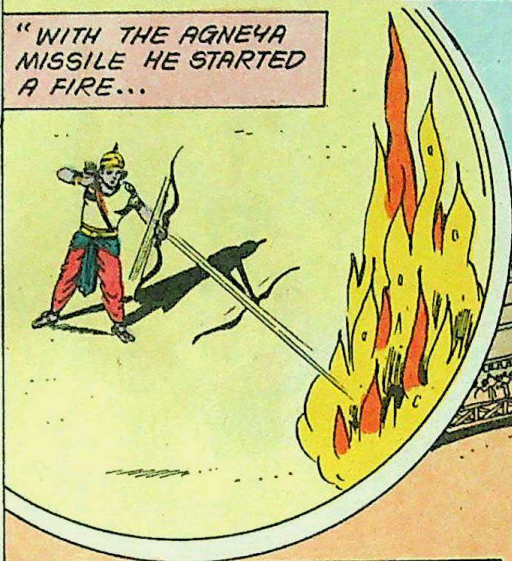
THE THREE FLAMING SONS, SPRUNG FROM THE SACRED FUEL THAT IS KUNTI, BRING ME LUCK, ELATION AND PROTECTION.



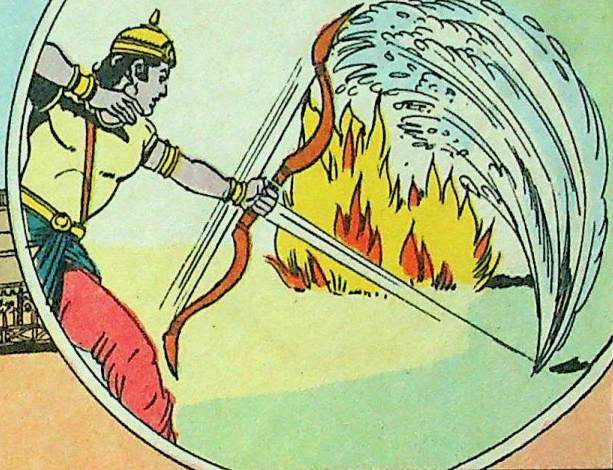
ENTER RAMANA

"ONCE THE EXCITEMENT OF THE CROWD HAD SUBSIDED, ARJUNA BEGAN TO DISPLAY HIS RESILIENCE TO HIS GURU.

"WITH THE AGNEYA MISSILE HE STARTED A FIRE...



"...AND BY THE VARUNA MISSILE, A COLUMN OF WATER.



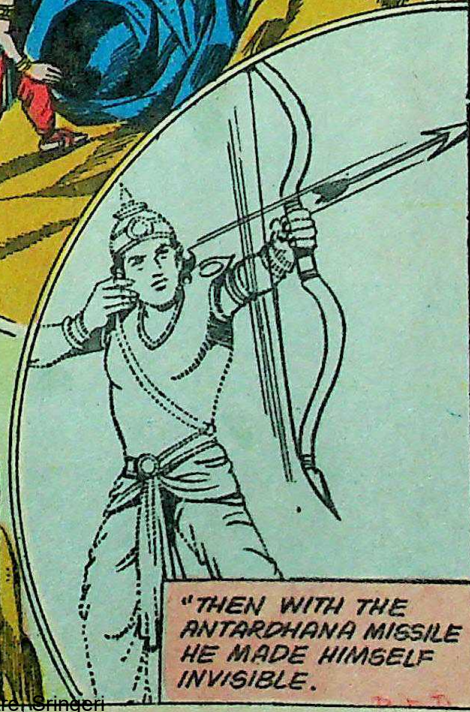
"BY THE VAYAVYA MISSILE HE BROUGHT FORTH A GALE OF WIND, AND BY THE PARJANYA MISSILE, CLOUDS.



"BY THE BHAUMA MISSILE HE ENTERED INTO THE EARTH...



"...AND BY THE PARVATA MISSILE HE SET UP MOUNTAINS.



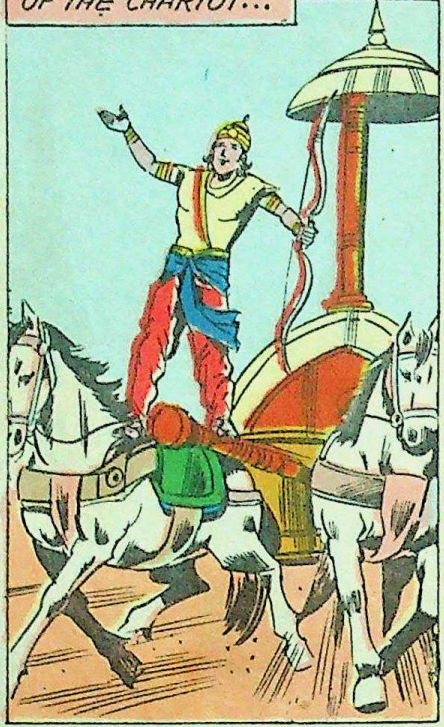
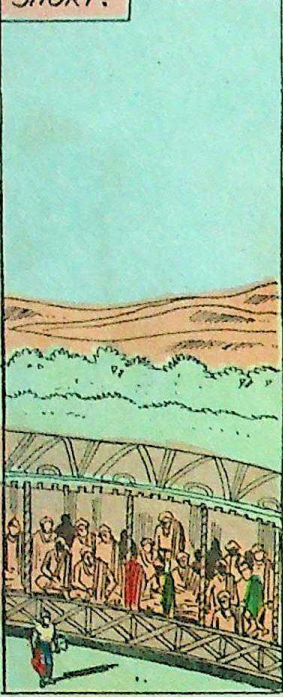
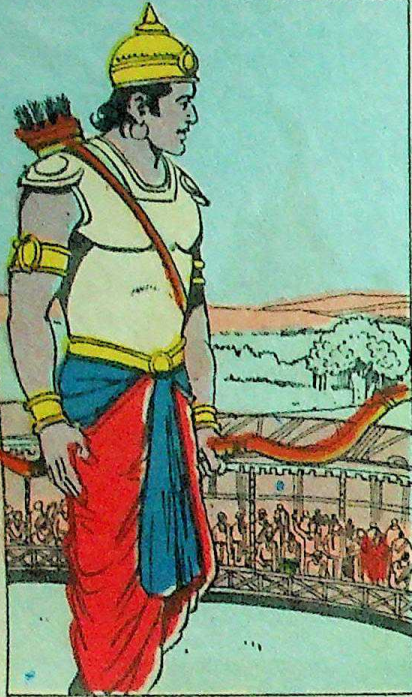
"THEN WITH THE ANTARDHANA MISSILE HE MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE.

"FOR A SPLIT SECOND HE
MADE HIMSELF TALL..."

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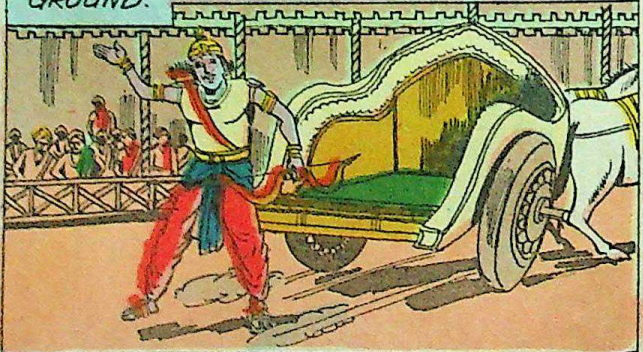
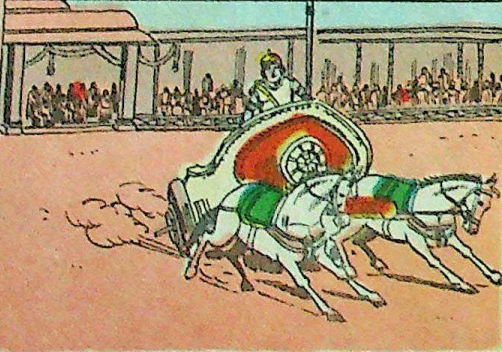
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...AND THEN THE
NEXT INSTANT
SHORT.

NOW HE WAS ON THE YOKE
OF THE CHARIOT...



"...AND NOW INSIDE THE CHARIOT.

"AND THE NEXT SECOND HE WAS ON THE
GROUND.



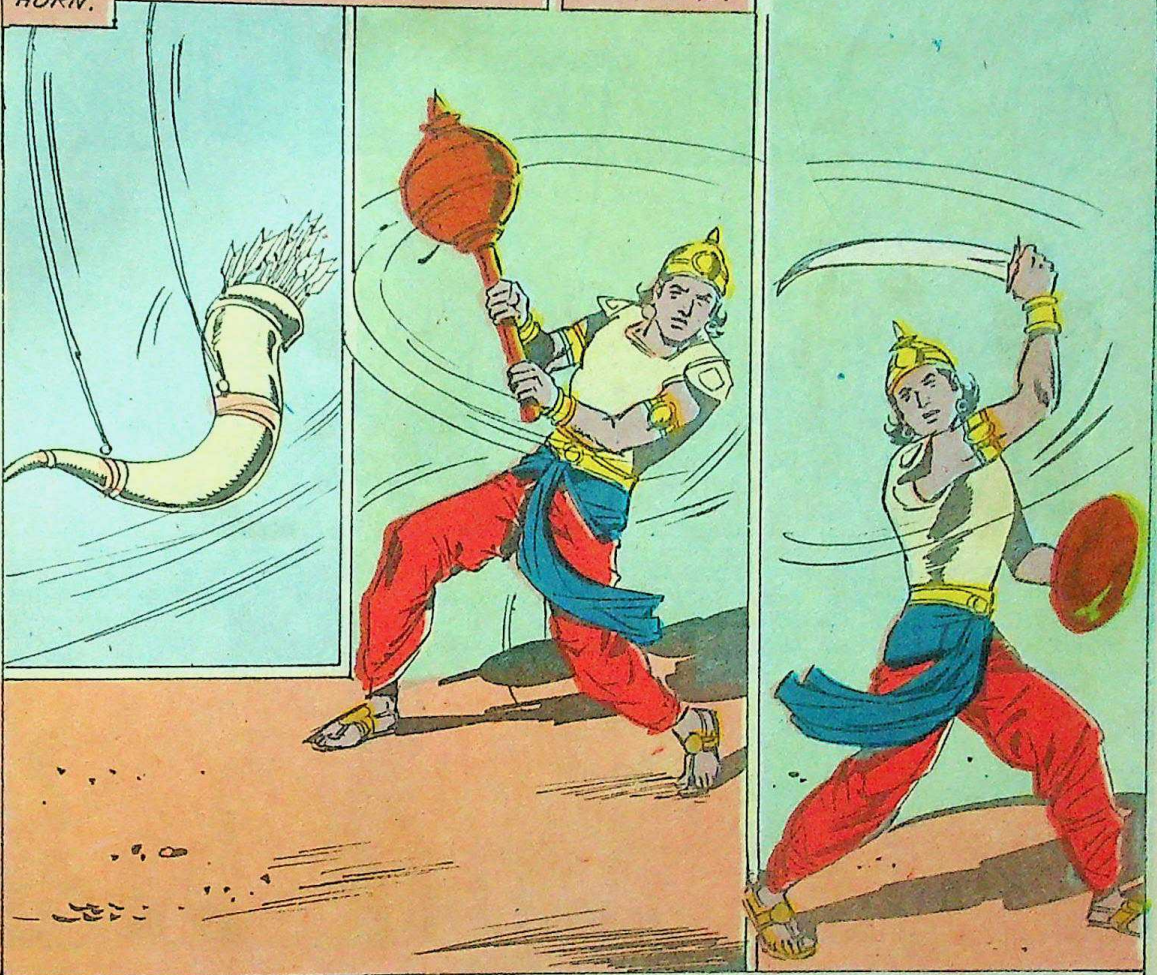
"HE LET FLY FIVE ARROWS SIMULTANEOUSLY INTO
THE MOUTH OF A REVOLVING IRON BOAR..."



ENTER KARNA

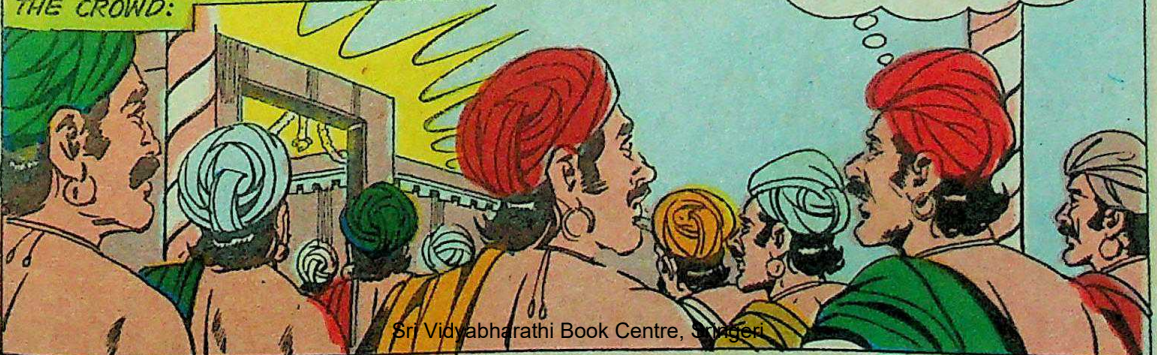
"... AND FOUND THE MARK FOR TWENTY-ONE OF HIS FLYING ARROWS, IN ONE SHOT, IN THE HOLLOW OF A SWINGING HORN.

" THEN ARJUNA EXHIBITED ALL THE COMPLEX MOVES IN FIGHTS WITH THE MACE AND THE SWORD.

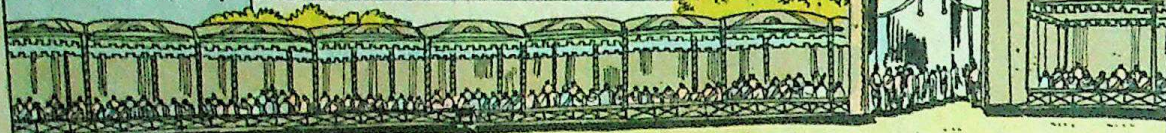


" WHEN THE EVENTS WERE ALMOST OVER, WHEN THE INTEREST HAD WANED AND WHEN THE MUSIC WAS STILLED, THERE CAME FROM THE GATES THE SOUND OF THE SLAPPING OF ARMS, MIGHTY LIKE THE THUNDERBOLT SIGNIFYING IMMENSE STRENGTH, AND AT ONCE A THOUGHT PASSED THROUGH THE CROWD:

ARE THE MOUNTAINS CRACKING OR IS THE EARTH SPLITTING OR IS THE SKY ECHOING THE JOSTLE OF HEAVY CLOUDS?



"THEN THE SPECTATORS TURNED TOWARDS THE GATE. MEANWHILE THE PANDAVAS HAD TAKEN THEIR STANCE AROUND DRONA; AND THE KAURAVAS AND ASHWATTHAMA AROUND DURYODHANA.



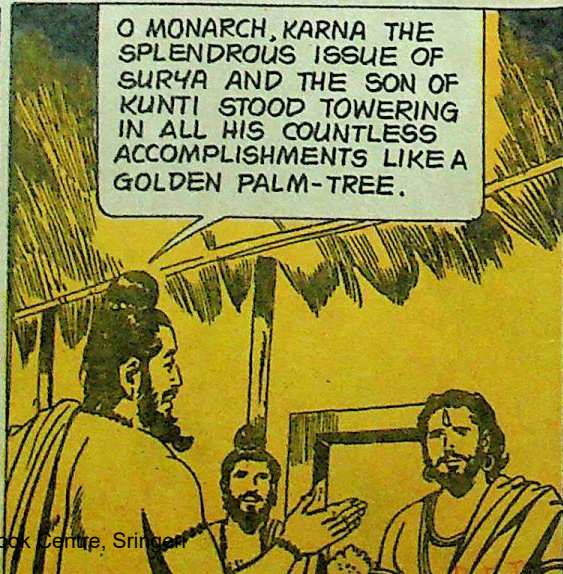
"KARNA THEN STRODE IN, EVEN AS THE WONDER-STROCK SPECTATORS MADE WAY FOR HIM. THAT HERO, GLORIOUS IN HIS CONGENITAL ARMOUR AND EARRINGS, BOW IN HAND AND SWORD AT HIS WAIST...



"...ENTERED THE ARENA LIKE A MASSIVE MOUNTAIN ON THE MOVE.



O MONARCH, KARNA THE SPLENDOROUS ISSUE OF SURYA AND THE SON OF KUNTI STOOD TOWERING IN ALL HIS COUNTLESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS LIKE A GOLDEN PALM-TREE.



"THE MIGHTY WARRIOR TOOK IN THE WHOLE SCENE WITH HIS EYES..."



"... AND BOWED, WITH SCANT RESPECT, TO DRONA AND KRIPA WHILE THE VAST ASSEMBLY, RESTLESS IN THEIR CURIOSITY YET STILL WITH ASTONISHMENT, THOUGHT:

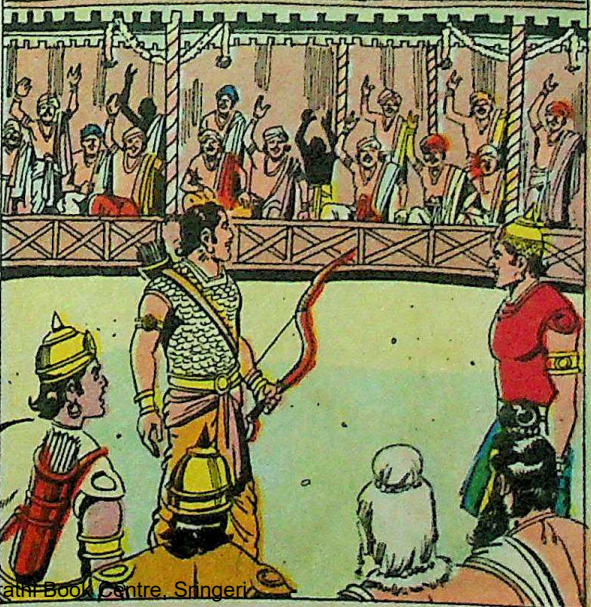
WHO COULD THIS BE?



"AND THE OFFSPRING OF THE SUN, UNAWARE THAT ARJUNA WAS HIS BROTHER, SAID TO HIM IN A THUNDERING VOICE:

O ARJUNA, DO NOT EXULT OVER YOUR FEATS. I SHALL PERFORM EACH ONE OF THEM WITH A FINE EXCESS.

"O MONARCH, NO SOONER HAD KARNA SPOKEN THAN THE SPECTATORS WERE UPON THEIR FEET, PROPELLED BY SOME MACHINE AS IT WERE. DURYODHANA WAS PLEASED AND ARJUNA, EMBARRASSED AND ANGRY.



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AND, DELICIOUSLY, HE HELD
KARNA CLOSE AND SAID TO HIM:

THEN KARNA,
WITH PERMISSION
FROM DRONA, DID
ALL THAT ARJUNA
HAD DONE BEFORE.

WELCOME, O MIGHTY WARRIOR. IT IS MY
GOOD FORTUNE THAT YOU ARE WITH
ME. I AM AT YOUR COMMAND AND
THE KINGDOM OF THE KURUS YOURS
TO ENJOY.

"KARNA REPLIED:

I TAKE YOUR
WORDS AS ALREADY
FULFILLED. I LONG
FOR A BOUT OF
COMBAT WITH
ARJUNA.

"DURYODHANA SAID:

PARTAKE OF THE
GOOD THINGS OF
LIFE WITH ME. BE GOOD
TO YOUR COMPANIONS
AND BRING DOWN
YOUR FOOT ON YOUR
ENEMIES.

"FEELING DISGRACED, ARJUNA SAID TO KARNA
WHO STOOD LIKE A ROCK AMONGST THE BROTHERS:

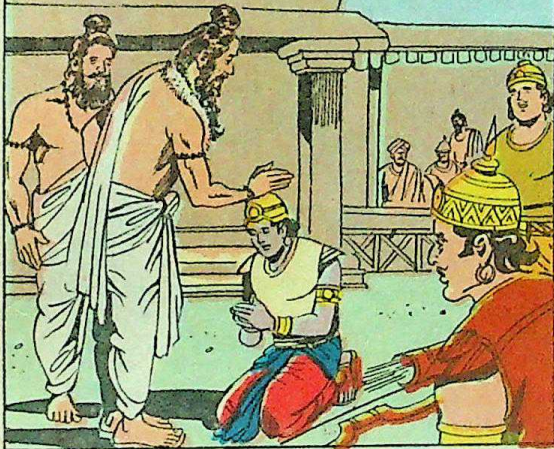
O KARNA, SLAIN BY ME
IN COMBAT, YOU SHALL GAIN
THE REALM RESERVED FOR
TRESPASSERS AND FOR THE
BRAGGART.

"KARNA REPLIED:

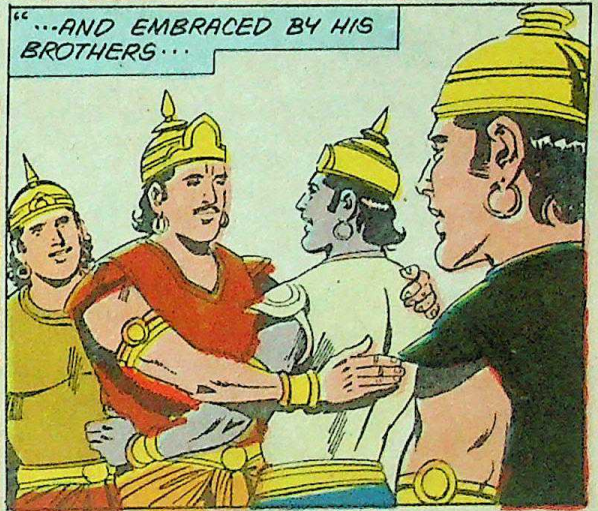
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WHY SPAR WITH
WORDS LIKE THE WEAK?
LET YOUR ARROWS SPEAK
FOR YOU. AND I SHALL
SEVER YOUR HEAD WITH
MY ARROWS UNDER
THE VERY WATCHFUL
EYE OF YOUR GURU.

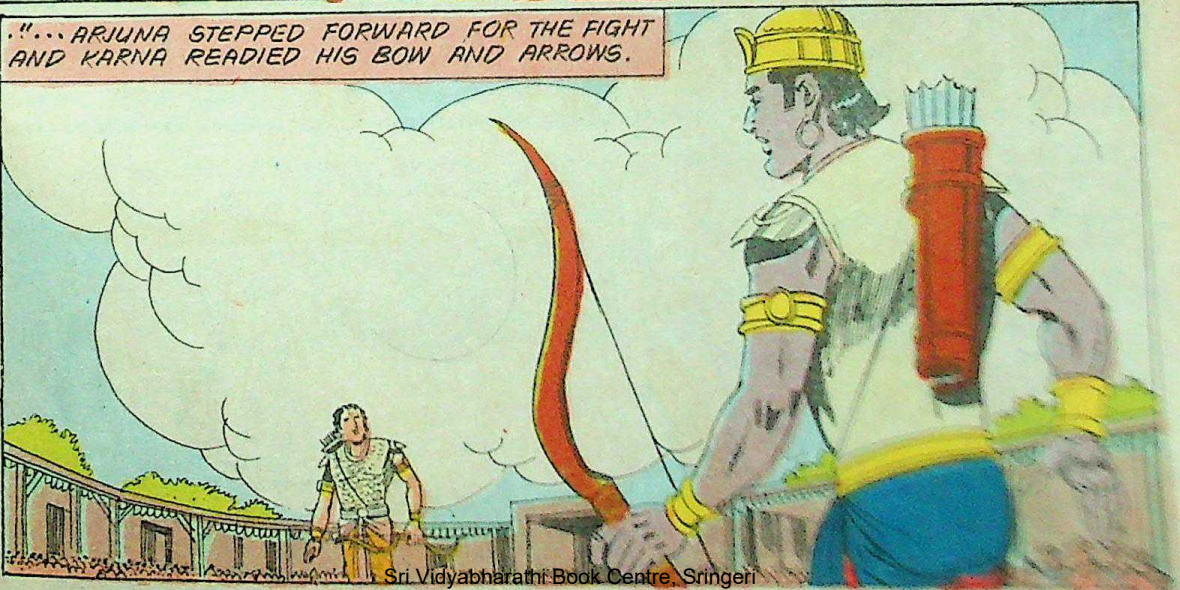
"PERMITTED BY DRONA..."



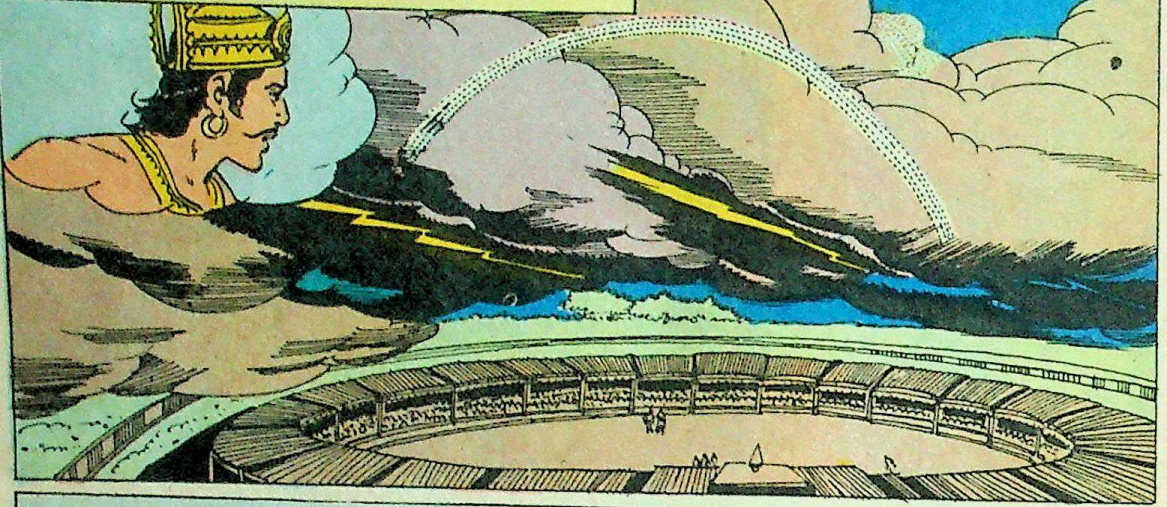
"...AND EMBRACED BY HIS
BROTHERS..."



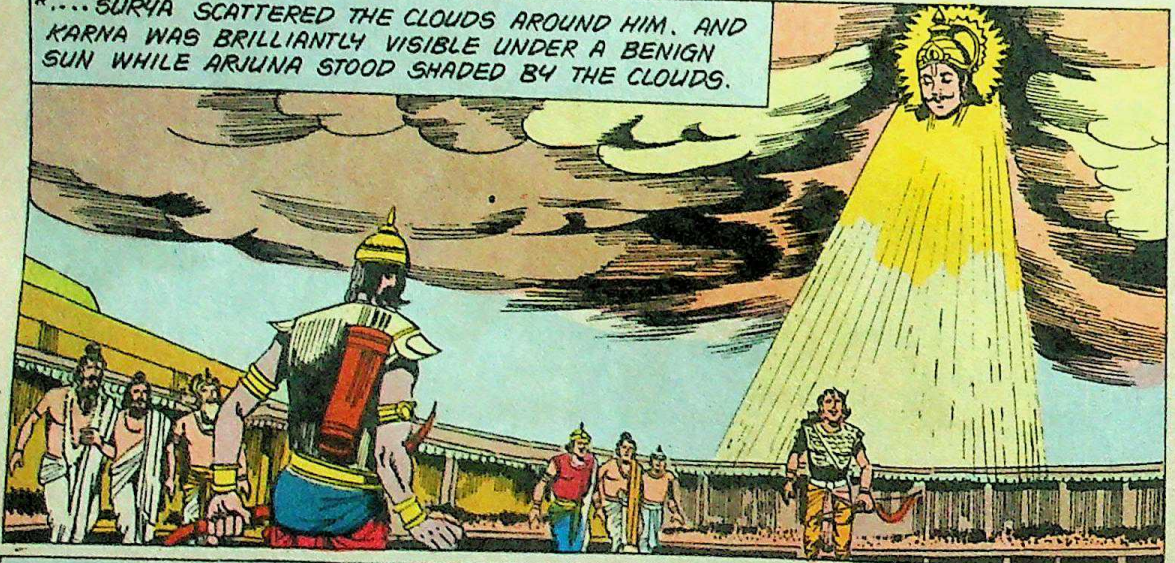
"...ARJUNA STEPPED FORWARD FOR THE FIGHT
AND KARNA READIED HIS BOW AND ARROWS."



"THEN WITH STREAKS OF LIGHTNING AND THE RADIANT BOW OF INDRA, DARK CLOUDS CAME AND COVERED THE SKY. AND PERCEIVING INDRA WATCHING THE ARENA WITH AFFECTION...

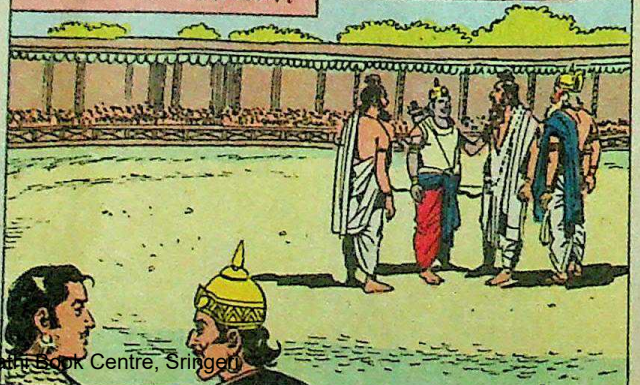
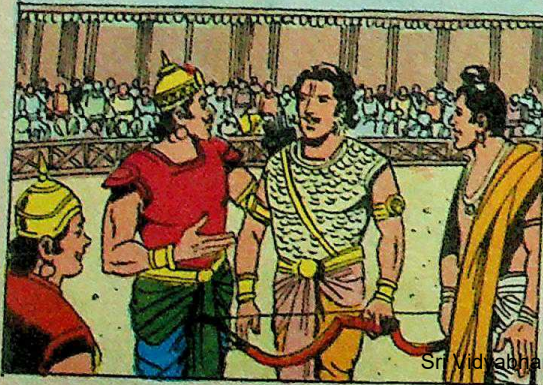


"... SURYA SCATTERED THE CLOUDS AROUND HIM, AND KARNA WAS BRILLIANTLY VISIBLE UNDER A BENIGN SUN WHILE ARJUNA STOOD SHADED BY THE CLOUDS.

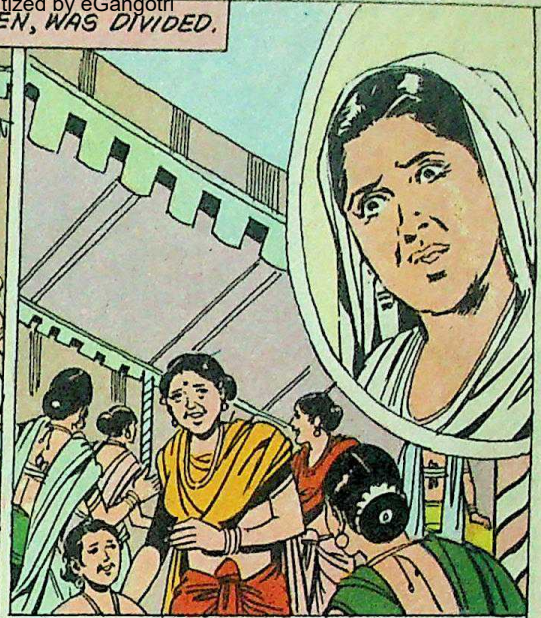
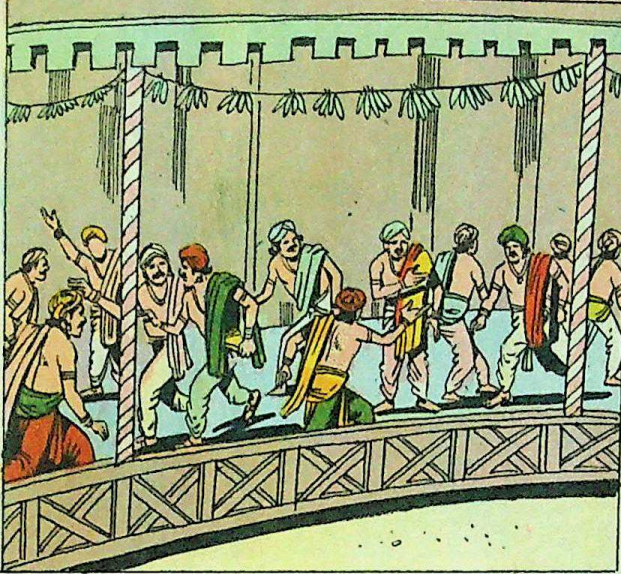


" BESIDE KARNA WERE DURYODHANA AND HIS BROTHERS...

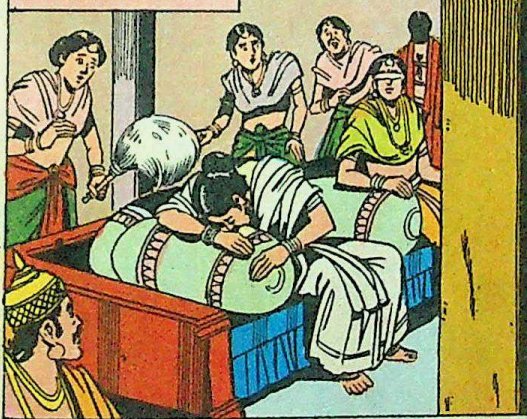
... WHILE DRONA, KRIPA, AND BHEESHMA WERE WITH ARJUNA.



"THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING THE WOMEN, WAS DIVIDED."



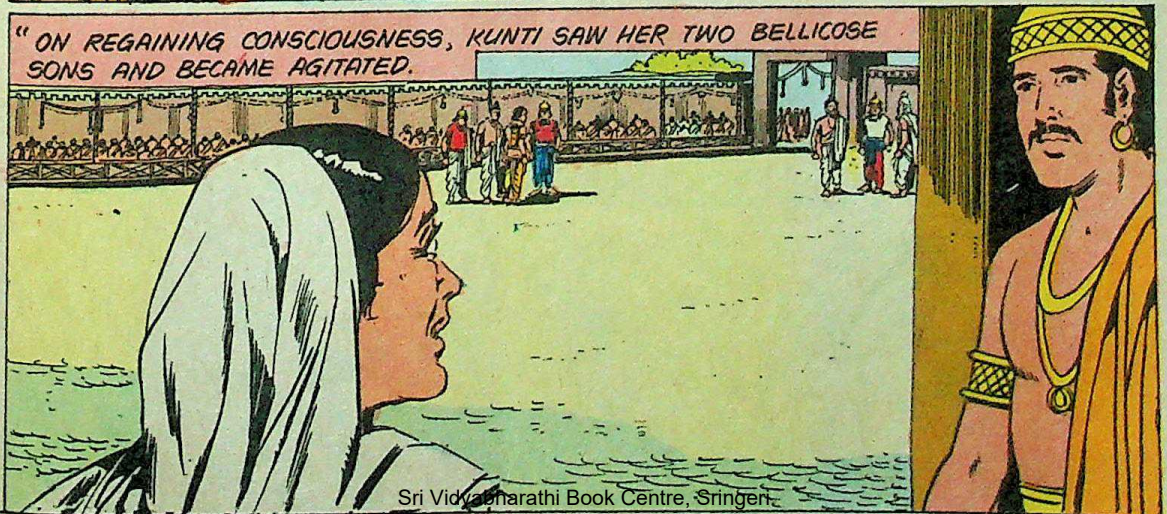
"KUNTI, AWARE OF THE FACTS, FELL UNCONSCIOUS."



"AND VIDURA, WITH THE HELP OF HER MAIDS, REVIVED KUNTI BY SPRINKLING AROMATIC WATER ON HER."

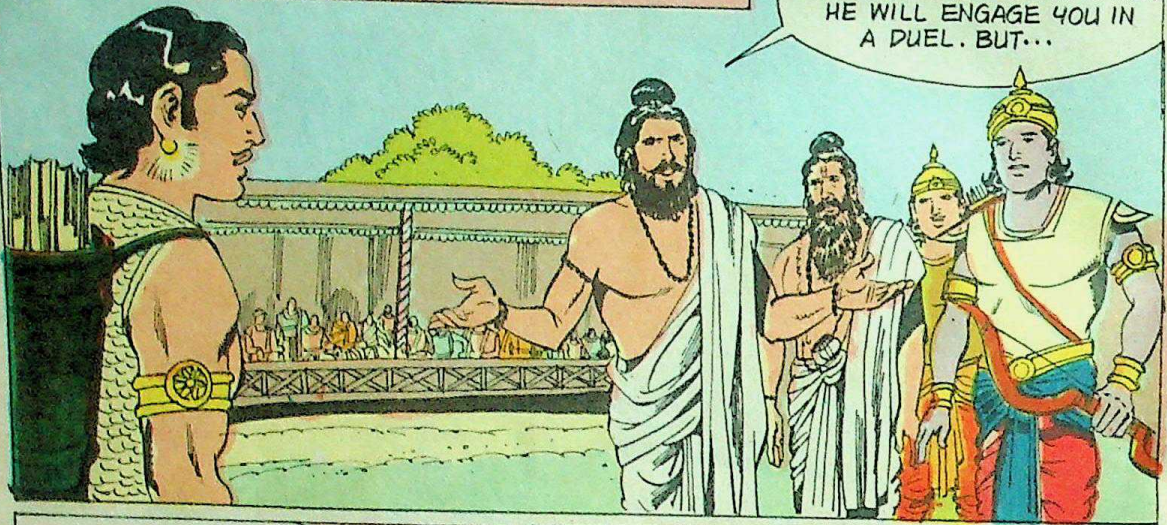


"ON REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, KUNTI SAW HER TWO BELLICOSE SONS AND BECAME AGITATED."



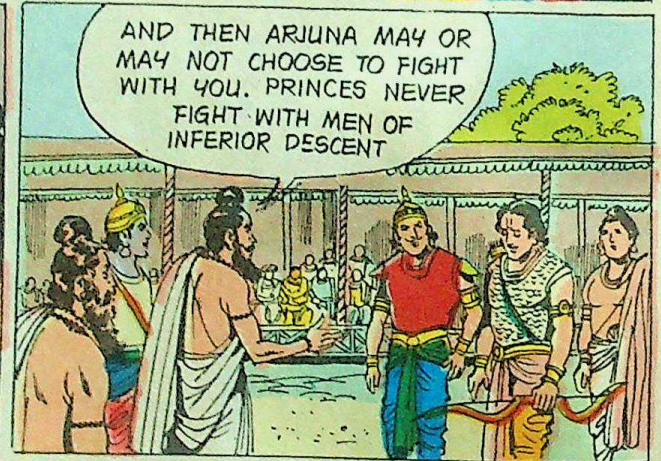
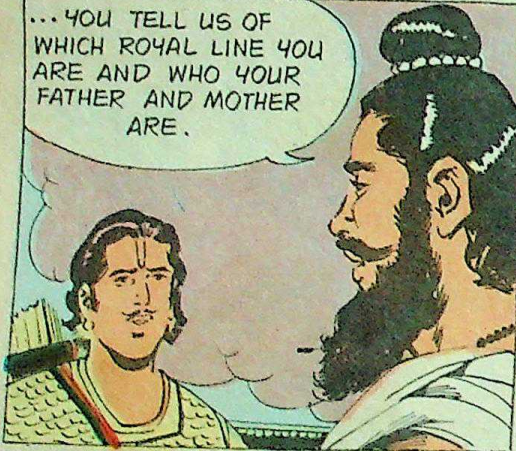
"THEN KRIPA, WHO KNEW WELL THE RULES OF DUELS SURVEYED THE CONTENDING WARRIORS READY WITH BOW AND ARROWS AND SAID TO KARNA:

THIS PANDAVA HERE IS THE THIRD SON OF KUNTI AND IS OF THE KURU RACE. HE WILL ENGAGE YOU IN A DUEL. BUT...



... YOU TELL US OF WHICH ROYAL LINE YOU ARE AND WHO YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER ARE.

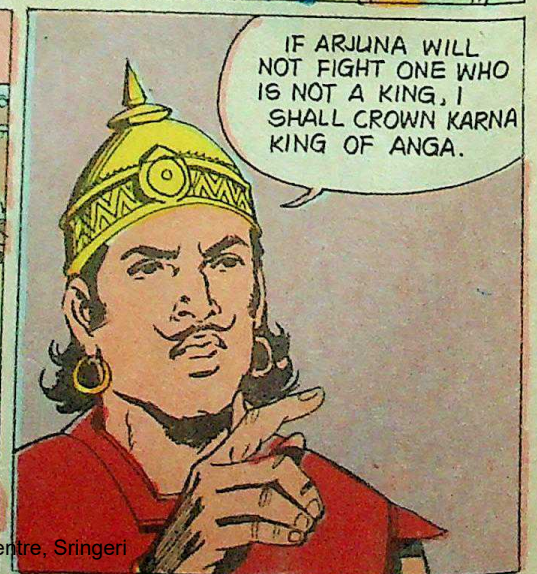
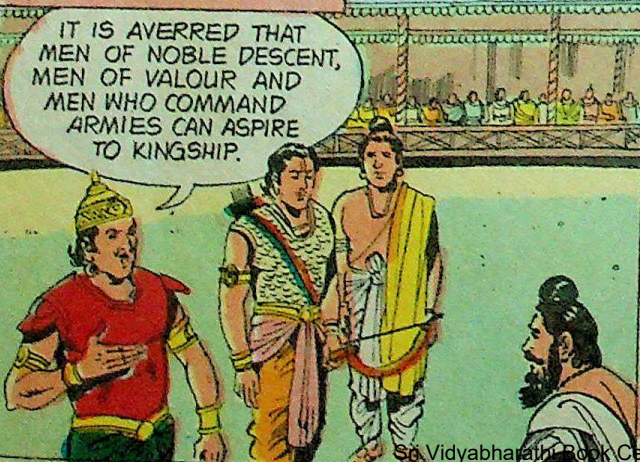
AND THEN ARJUNA MAY OR MAY NOT CHOOSE TO FIGHT WITH YOU. PRINCES NEVER FIGHT WITH MEN OF INFERIOR DESCENT



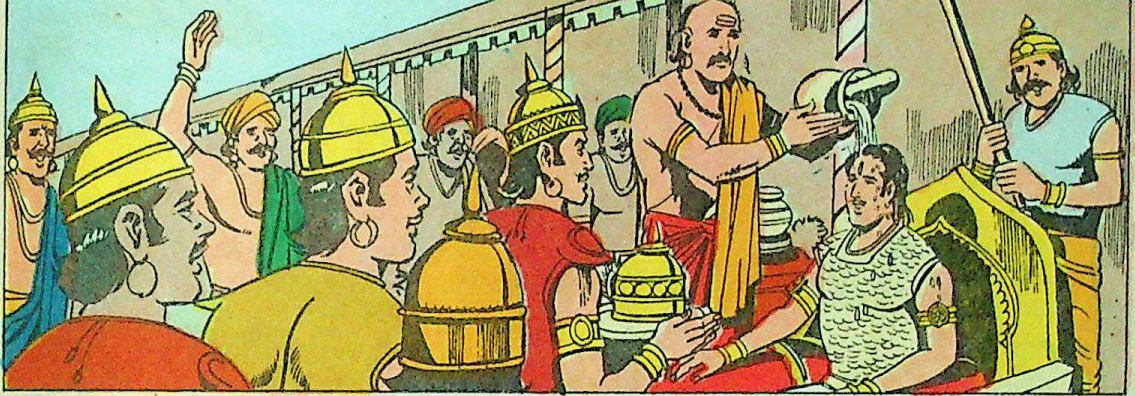
"KARNA'S FACE FELL AT KRIPA'S WORDS LIKE A LOTUS FLOWER WILTING UNDER PELTING RAIN. AND DURYODHANA SAID:

IT IS AVERRED THAT MEN OF NOBLE DESCENT, MEN OF VALOUR AND MEN WHO COMMAND ARMIES CAN ASPIRE TO KINGSHIP.

IF ARJUNA WILL NOT FIGHT ONE WHO IS NOT A KING, I SHALL CROWN KARNA KING OF ANGAS.



"AT THAT VERY MOMENT, KARNA WAS INSTALLED ON A SEAT OF GOLD AND CROWNED KING OF ANGAS, WITH CEREMONIAL GRAINS AND FLOWERS, BY MEN WHO KNEW THE MANTRAS. AND THE ROYAL UMBRELLA WAS RAISED OVER HIS HEAD WITH A BURST OF CHEERS OF APPROVAL."



"THEN KARNA SAID TO DURYODHANA:

WHAT MATCHING GIFT CAN I GIVE YOU IN RETURN FOR THE KINGDOM DONATED TO ME?



"AND DURYODHANA SAID TO HIM:

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR STAUNCH FRIENDSHIP.

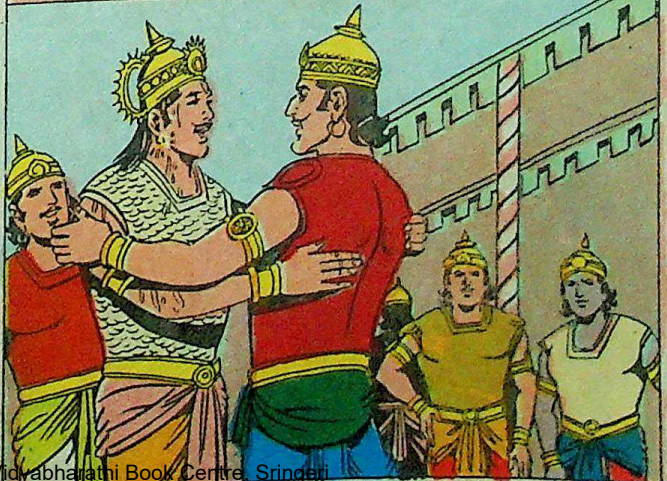


"AND KARNA SAID:

SO BE IT.

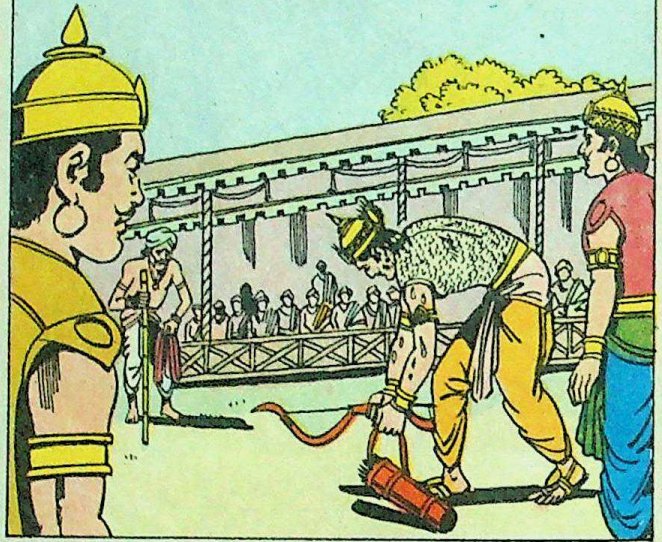
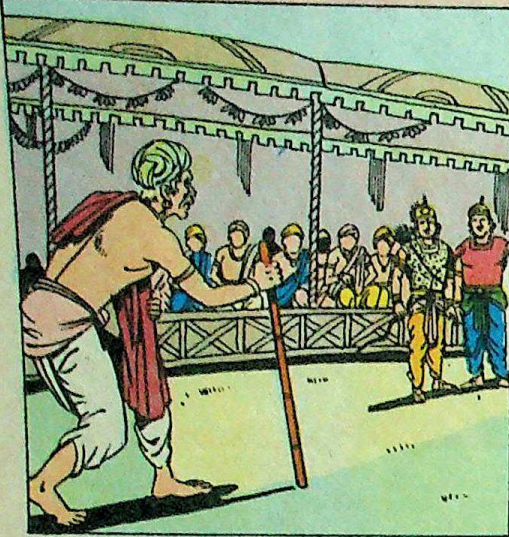


"AND HAPPY AT THE TURN OF EVENTS THE TWO EMBRACED EACH OTHER."



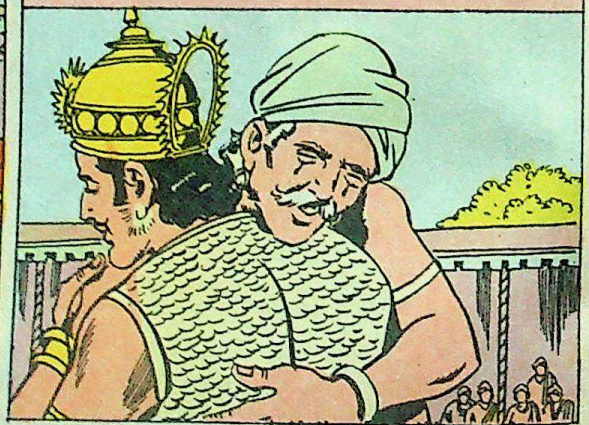
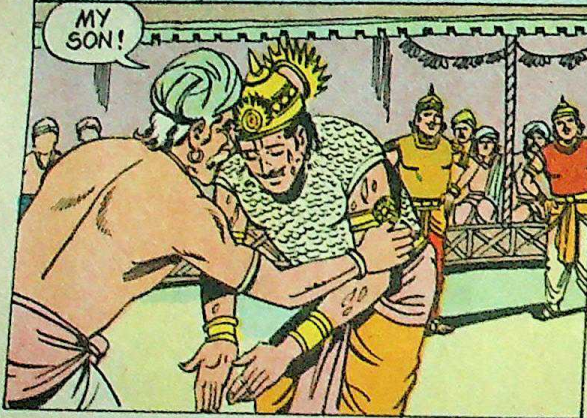
"AND THEN CAME ADHIRATHA. ON THE SCENE, WITH HIS CLOTHES ALL ASKEW, SUPPORTING HIS TREMBLING, PERSPIRING SELF ON A STAFF.

HE SAW HIM HE LEFT HIS WEAPONS AND...



...IN FILIAL PIETY, BOWED HIS HEAD WHICH WAS STILL WET FROM ANOINTING.

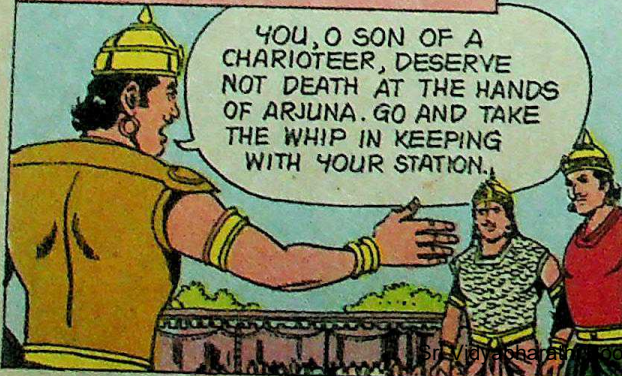
"THE CHARIOTEER HELD HIS FOSTER-SON CLOSE AND SHED TEARS OF JOY.



"BHEEMA, WATCHING THE EVENTS, TOOK KARNA TO BE THE CHARIOTEER'S OFFSPRING AND SAID IN WORDS OF SLIGHT:

YOU, O SON OF A CHARIOTEER, DESERVE NOT DEATH AT THE HANDS OF ARJUNA. GO AND TAKE THE WHIP IN KEEPING WITH YOUR STATION.

NEITHER ARE YOU WORTHY OF REIGNING OVER ANGA, EVEN AS A CUR IS NOT WORTHY OF PARTAKING THE SACRAMENT BY THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



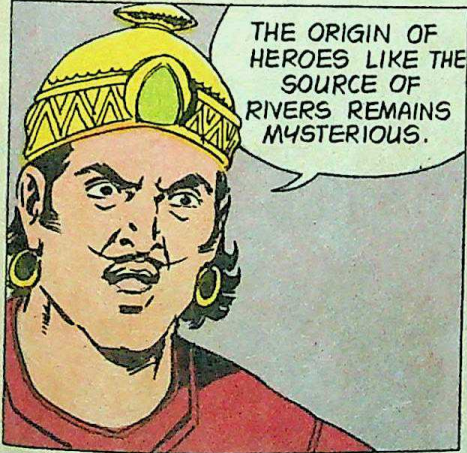
"WHEN KARNA HEARD THIS, HE DREW A DEEP BREATH AND WITH LIPS QUIVERING EVER SO LITTLE, SHOT A GLANCE AT THE SUN IN THE SKY.



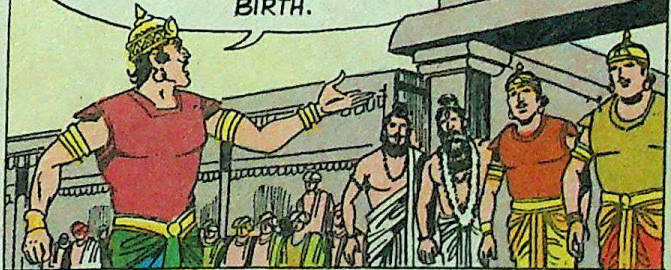
"DURYODHANA THEN ROSE UP IN RAGE, LIKE AN ELEPHANT IN RUT, AND ROARED:



THE ORIGIN OF HEROES LIKE THE SOURCE OF RIVERS REMAINS MYSTERIOUS.



THE ORIGIN OF THE MATCHLESS WARRIOR, OUR GURU DRONA, IS TO BE SOUGHT IN A WATER-POT; AND OF KRIPA IN A CLUMP OF REEDS. AND O PANDAVAS, I KNOW THE STORY OF YOUR BIRTH.



THIS KARNA HERE, WHO ALONG WITH HIS CONGENITAL ARMOUR BEARS EVERY AUSPICIOUS TRAIT, DESERVES TO BE THE KING NOT ONLY OF ANGA...



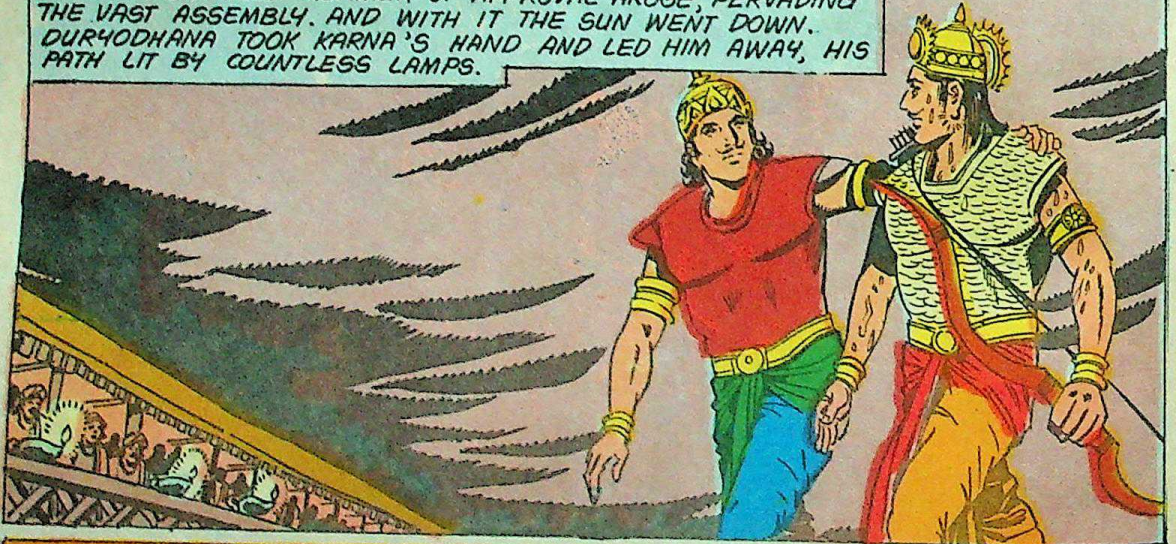
...BUT OF THE WHOLE WORLD.



IF ANYONE HERE FINDS MY
DOINGS FOR KARNA INTOLERABLE,
LET HIM MOUNT HIS CHARIOT AND
BEND HIS BOW TO GIVE ME
FIGHT.



"THEN A DIFFUSED MURMUR OF APPROVAL AROSE, PERVADING
THE VAST ASSEMBLY. AND WITH IT THE SUN WENT DOWN.
DURYODHANA TOOK KARNA'S HAND AND LED HIM AWAY, HIS
PATH LIT BY COUNTLESS LAMPS.



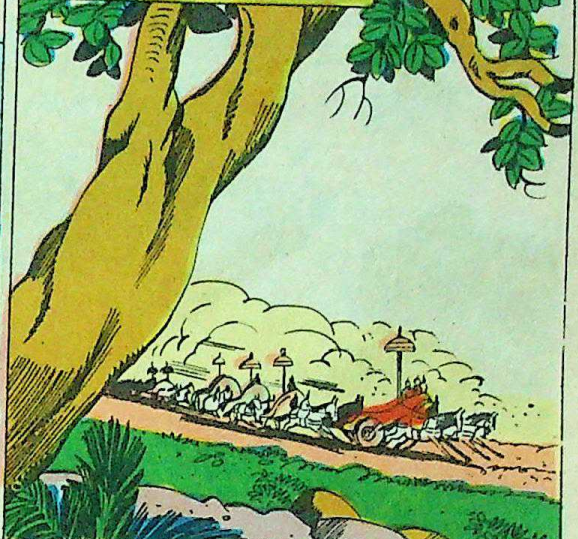
AND, O MONARCH, THE PANDAVAS ALONG WITH DRONA,
KRIPA AND BHEESHMA RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.
THE PEOPLE TOO CAME AWAY, SOME CLAIMING
VICTORY FOR ARJUNA, SOME FOR KARNA AND SOME FOR
DURYODHANA. KUNTI WAS SECRETLY PLEASED AS SHE
RECOGNIZED IN THE NEWLY-CROWNED KING OF ANGA
HER SON KARNA. AND YUDHISHTHIRA CAME AWAY WITH
THE FIRM BELIEF THAT KARNA WAS THE ARCHER PAR
EXCELLENCE. AS FOR DURYODHANA, ARJUNA NO
LONGER REMAINED A THREAT TO HIM, BECAUSE
HE WAS REASSURED BY KARNA'S FRIENDSHIP.



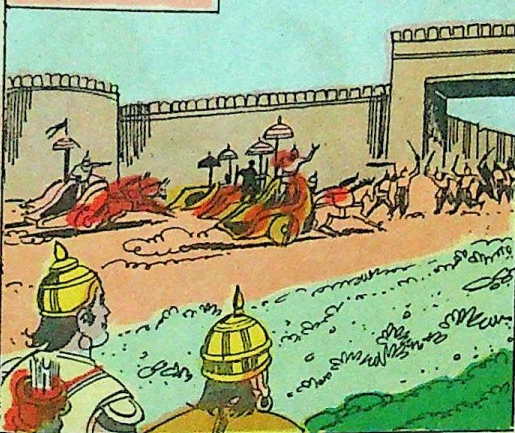
"PERCEIVING THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAUHAVAS TO BE COMPLETE WARRIORS, DRONA THOUGHT THE TIME HAD COME TO DEMAND THE TEACHER'S DUES. AND, O MONARCH, HE SAID TO THEM ONE DAY:

I DEMAND AS MY FEE, DRUPADA, THE KING OF PANCHALA OVERCOME IN BATTLE AND BROUGHT TO ME.

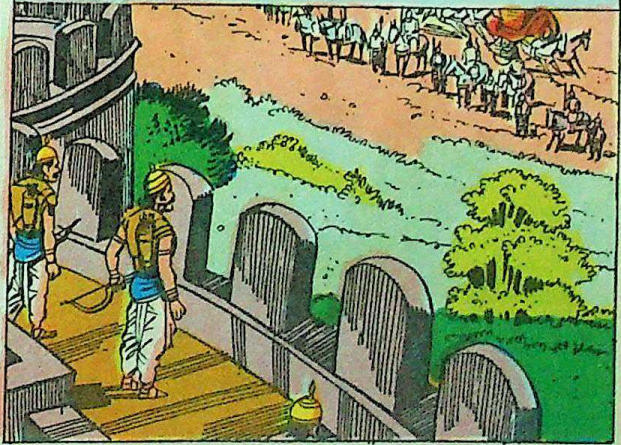
"ACCORDING TO THE DEMAND, THE PUGNACIOUS PRINCES MARCHED OUT ACCOMPANIED BY DRONA.



'THEY FOUGHT THE PANCHALAS IN THEIR WAY...



"...AND SURROUNDED THE CAPITAL OF DRUPADA.

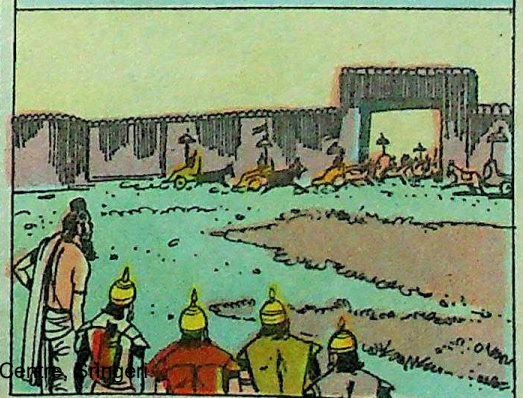


"WHEN ARJUNA SAW DURYODHANA AND HIS BROTHERS AND KARNA AND KURUITSU VYING WITH ONE ANOTHER TO LEAD THE ATTACK, HE SAID TO DRONA:

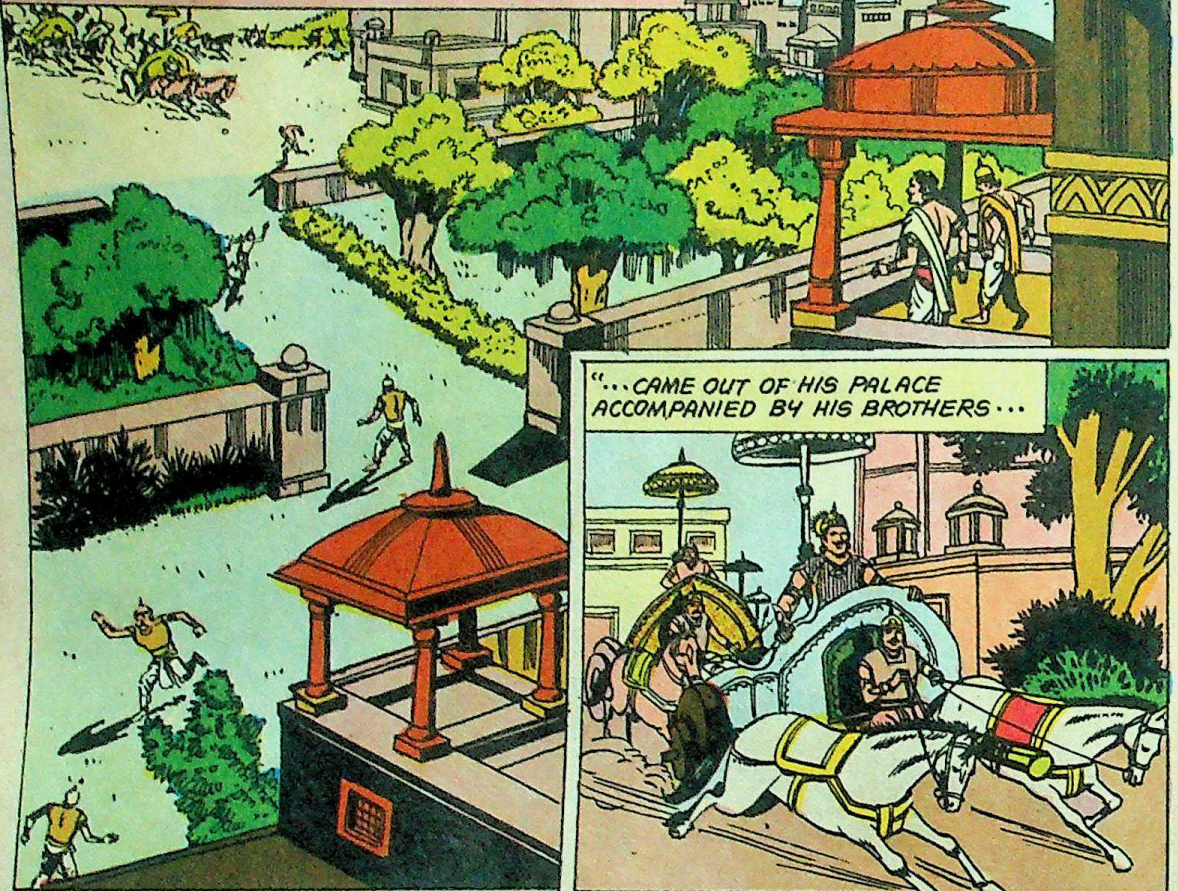
THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEIZE DRUPADA IN BATTLE. WE SHALL MOVE IN WHEN THEY HAVE EXPENDED THEIR ENERGY



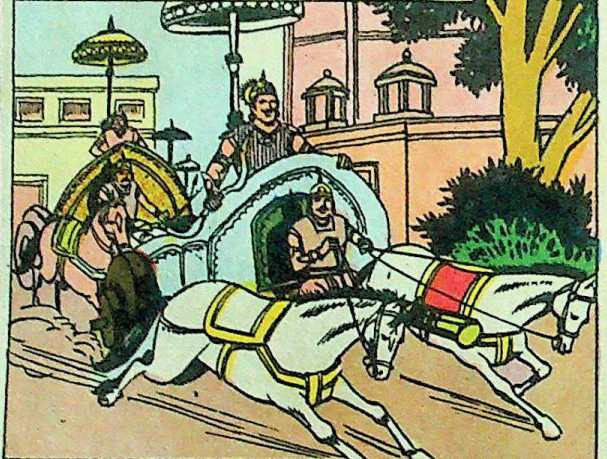
"AND ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS WAITED OUTSIDE THE CITADEL.



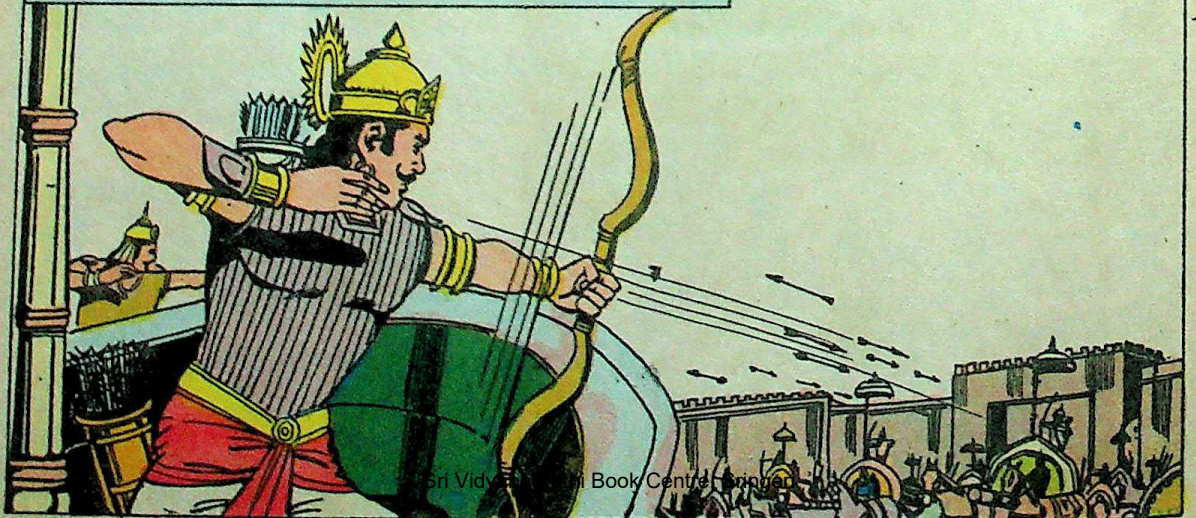
"THE OTHER PRINCES, SPEEDING IN THEIR CHARIOTS AT THE HEELS OF THE CAVALRY, BROKE INTO THE CITY AND THUNDERED UP THE STREETS. MEANWHILE THE KING OF THE PANCHALAS, HEARING THE RUMBLE AND EYEING THE MARCHING ARMY...



"...CAME OUT OF HIS PALACE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS BROTHERS...



"...AND ASSAILING THE KURUS FROM HIS WHITE CHARIOT, BOMBARDED THEM WITH A VOLLEY OF ARROWS. THEN DURYODHANA AND HIS BROTHER DUKSHASANA, STUNG TO THE QUICK, SHOWERED ARROWS UPON THE ENEMY.



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 "THE MIGHTY BOWMAN DRUPADA, THOUGH LACERATED, RETALIATED WITH FORCE."

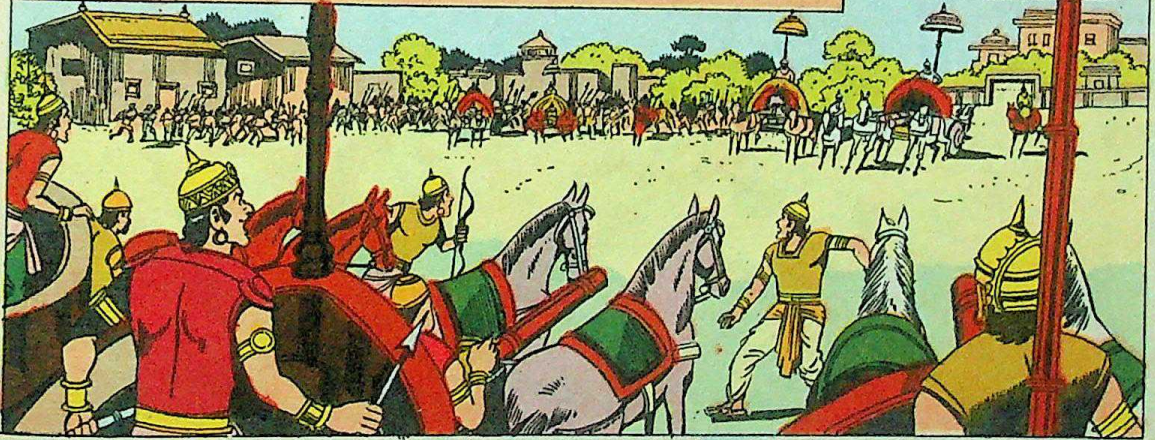


COURSING THROUGH THE BATTLEFIELD, LIKE A WHEEL OF FIRE, DRUPADA SHROUDED DURYODHANA, KARNA AND THE OTHER PRINCES WITH ARROWS.

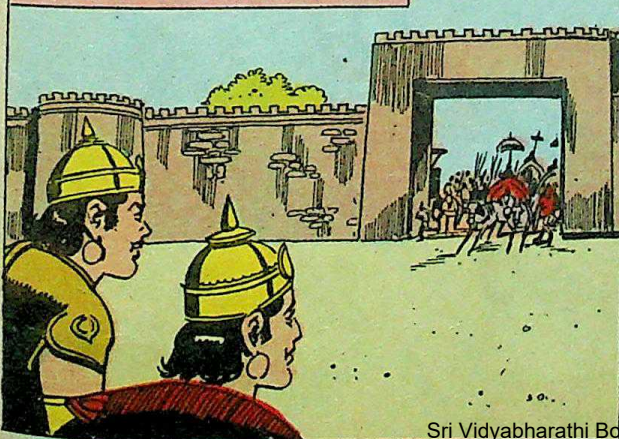
THOUGH HE WAS FIGHTING SINGLEHANDED, O MONARCH, THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH HE MOVED, STRUCK TERROR AMONG THE KURUS. THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE FIGHTING NOT ONE BUT MANY DRUPADAS. THE SHARP ARROWS OF THAT KING CAME FAST AND FIERCE, TILL THE PANCHALAS IN THEIR HOMES, BEAT THE DRUMS AND BLEW THE CONCHES OF VICTORY.



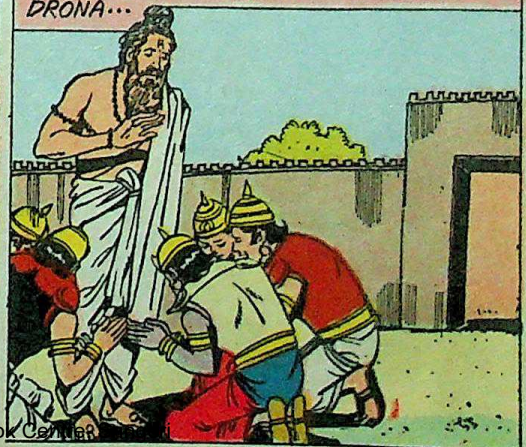
"ALL THE CITIZENS, YOUNG AND OLD, RUSHED OUT, AND THEY ADDED THEIR LEONINE ROAR TO THE RESONANCE OF THEIR BOW-STRINGS, AS THEY FELL UPON THE KAUHAVAS."



"AND THE BATTLE-SCARRED KAURAVAS CAME WAILING TO THE PANDAVAS."



"WHEN THE PANDAVAS HEARD THE TERRIBLE LAMENT, THEY SALUTED DRONA..."



"... AND MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS

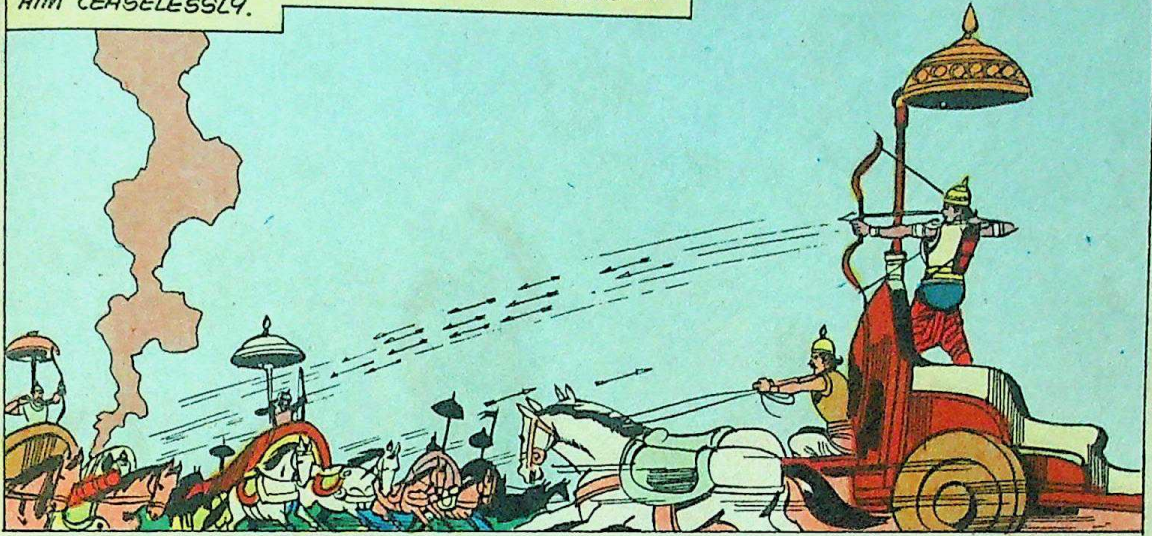
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THEN, KEEPING YUDHISHTHIRA OUT OF THE BATTLE, ARJUNA COMMISSIONED NAKULA AND SAHADEVA TO DEFEND HIS CHARIOT WHEELS; WHILE BHEEMA, ALWAYS AT THE FORE-FRONT, STOOD MACE IN HAND.

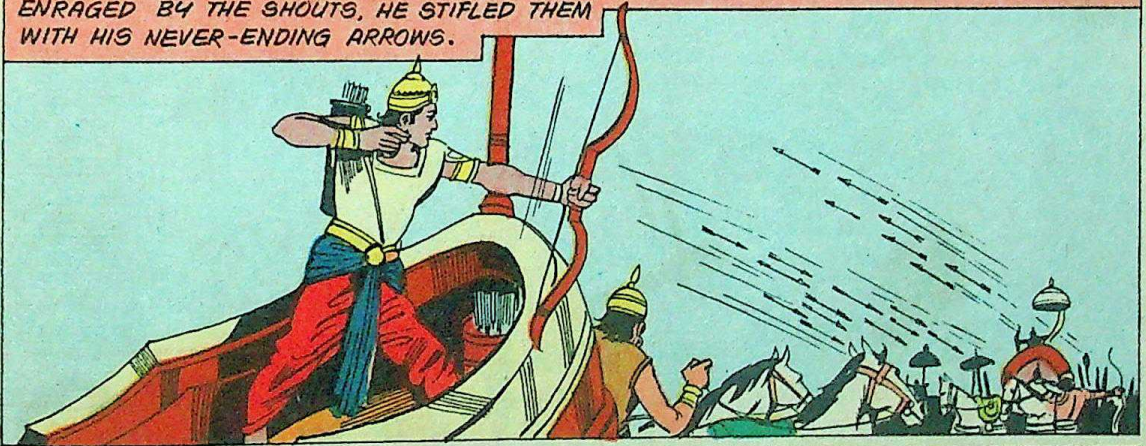
"ACCOMPANIED THUS BY HIS BROTHERS, ARJUNA RUSHED FORTH AT THE ENEMY FILLING THE LAND WITH THE RUMBLE OF HIS CHARIOT.

"BHEEMA BROKE INTO THE PANCHALA RANKS LIKE A MIGHTY FISH PLUNGING INTO THE OCEAN WAVES. AND HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE TROOP OF ELEPHANTS TO KILL THEM WITH HIS MACE.

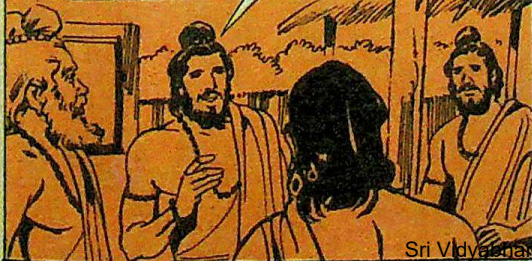
"MEANWHILE ARJUNA, INTENT ON PLEASING HIS GURU, MOVED TOWARDS DRUPADA, SHOOTING ARROWS AT HIM CEASELESSLY.



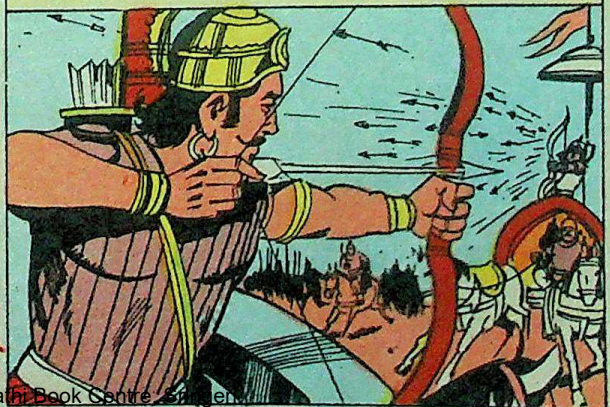
" THEN THE PANCHALAS, ROARING LIKE LIONS, ATTACKED ARJUNA FROM ALL SIDES. ENRAGED BY THE SHOUTS, HE STIFLED THEM WITH HIS NEVER-ENDING ARROWS.



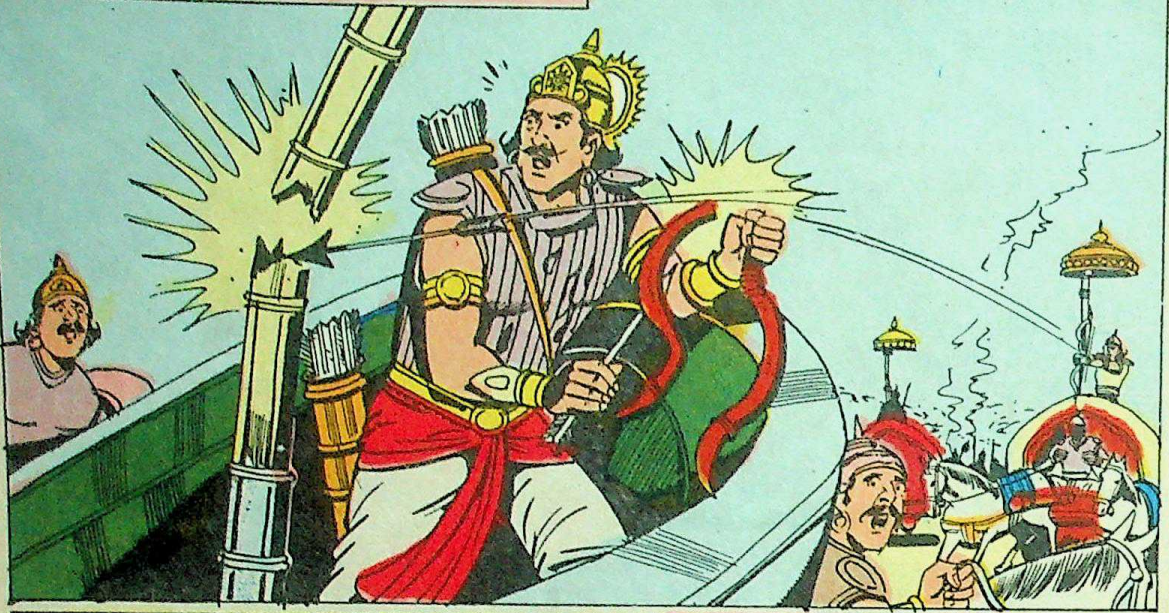
O MONARCH, THE BATTLE BECAME TERRIBLE AND WONDROUS. IF THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN THE AIMING AND DISPATCH OF ARJUNA'S ARROWS, THE OBSERVERS MISSED IT. CHEERING SOUNDS MINGLED WITH THOSE OF CHALLENGE.



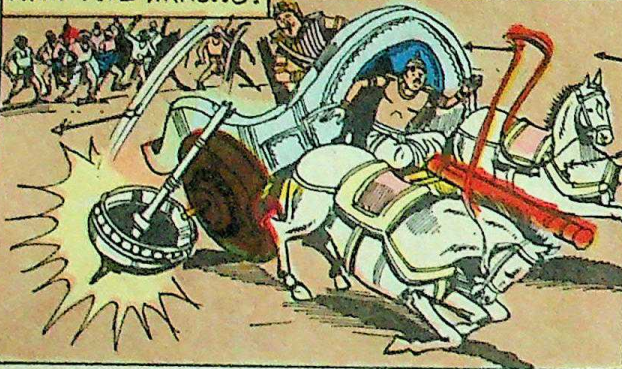
" THEN THE KING OF PANCHALA RACED TOWARDS ARJUNA, LIKE SHAMBARA, THE ASURA DID TOWARDS INDRA IN DAYS OF YORE. EVEN AS DRUPADA COVERED ARJUNA WITH ARROWS...



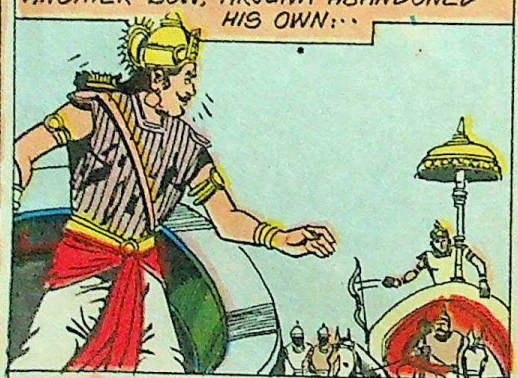
"... THE PANDAVA PRINCE CUT THE KING'S BOW, AND HIS FLAGSTAFF INTO TWO..."



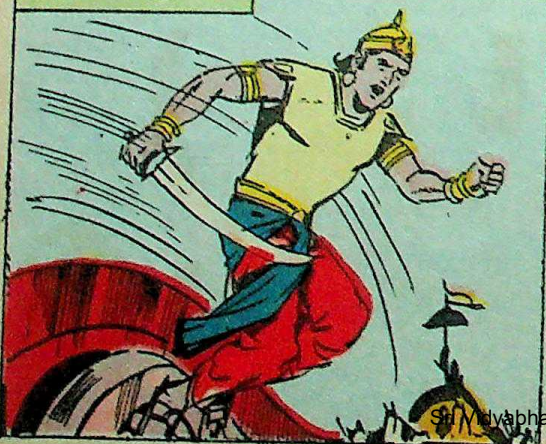
"... AND FELLED HIS HORSES AND CHARIOTEER WITH FIVE ARROWS."



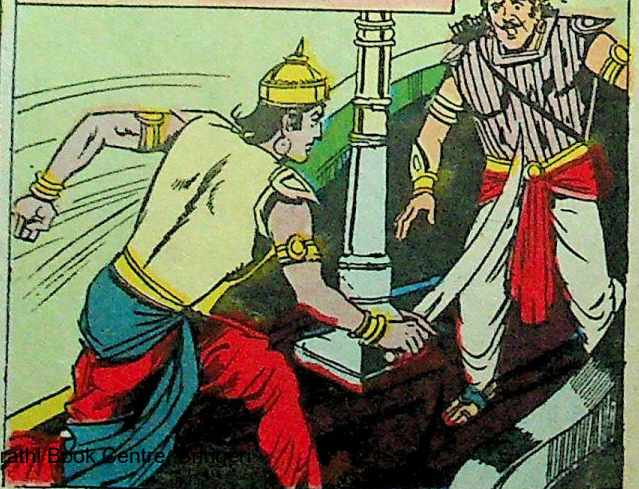
"AS THE KING STOOD GROPPING FOR ANOTHER BOW, ARJUNA ABANDONED HIS OWN..."



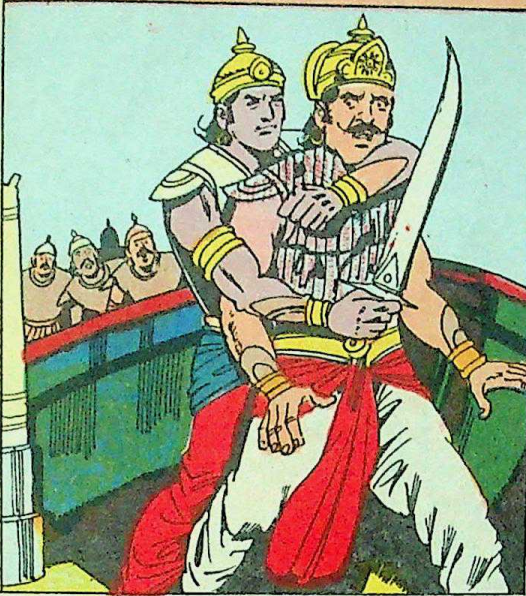
"... UNSHEATHED HIS SWORD, AND ROARING LIKE A LION, LEAPT OUT OF HIS CHARIOT..."



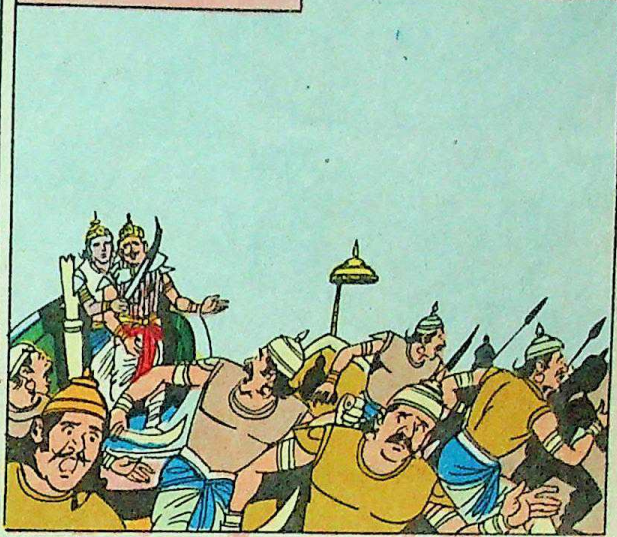
"... ONTO THAT OF HIS ENEMY..."



"...AND CAPTURED HIM. SEEING THIS...



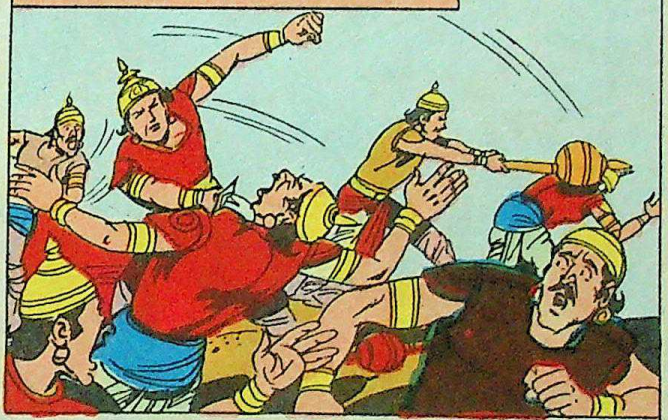
"...THE PANCHALA ARMY FLED. ARJUNA WHO HAD PROVED HIS MIGHT TO ALL, LET OUT A ROAR OF TRIUMPH..."



"...AND MADE HIS RETURN.



"THE PRINCES SEEING ARJUNA RETURNING THUS, BEGAN TO SLAY DRUPADA'S MEN.

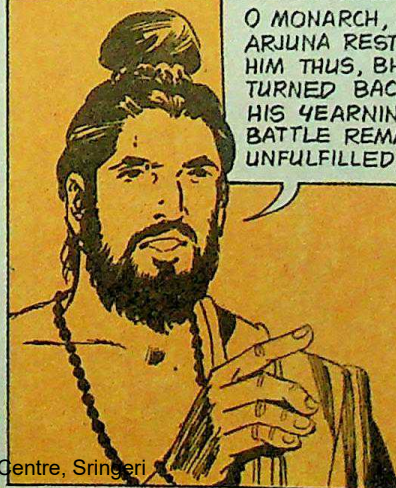


"THEN ARJUNA SAID:

DRUPADA, THE VALIANT KING, IS RELATED TO THE KURU HEROES. THEREFORE, BHEEMA, DO NOT KILL HIS SOLDIERS. LET US GO AND PAY OUR GURU DAKSHINA.



O MONARCH, WHEN ARJUNA RESTRAINED HIM THUS, BHEEMA TURNED BACK THOUGH HIS YEARNING FOR BATTLE REMAINED UNFULFILLED.

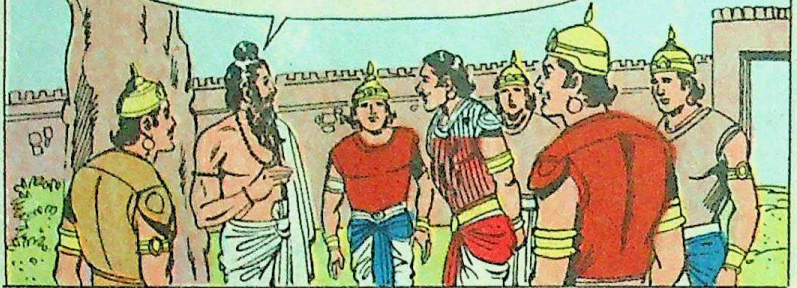


AND THE PRINCES
THEN OFFERED THE
CAPTIVE KING TO
THEIR GURU.



DRAMA SEEMS DEBILITATED CAPTIVE, INDIGENT AND
HUMILIATED, AND REMEMBERING THE KING'S EARLIER
ARROGANCE, SAID:

I HAVE LAID DESOLATE
YOUR KINGDOM AND CAPITAL.
YOUR LIFE IS AT THE MERCY OF YOUR
FOE. WOULD YOU REVIVE AN OLD
FRIENDSHIP?



" WITH A SLIGHT SMILE HE CONTINUED:

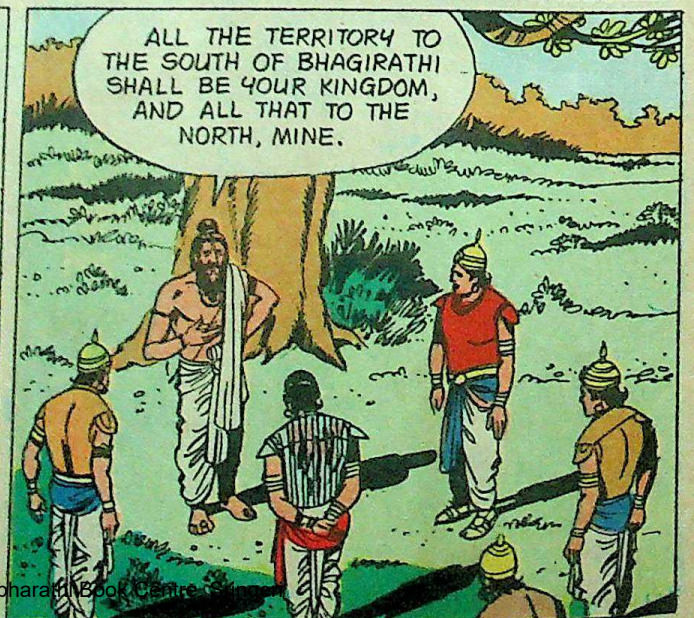
WE BRAHMANAS ARE
EVER-FORGIVING. AND MY
AFFECTION FOR YOU WAS
NURTURED BY OUR DAYS OF
CHILDHOOD FUN IN THE
ASHRAMA. THEREFORE,
O KING, I SEEK YOUR
FRIENDSHIP ONCE
AGAIN.

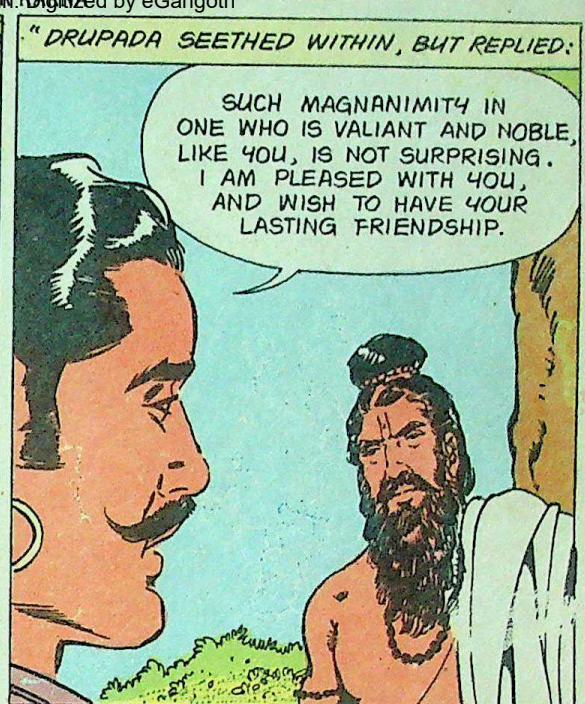
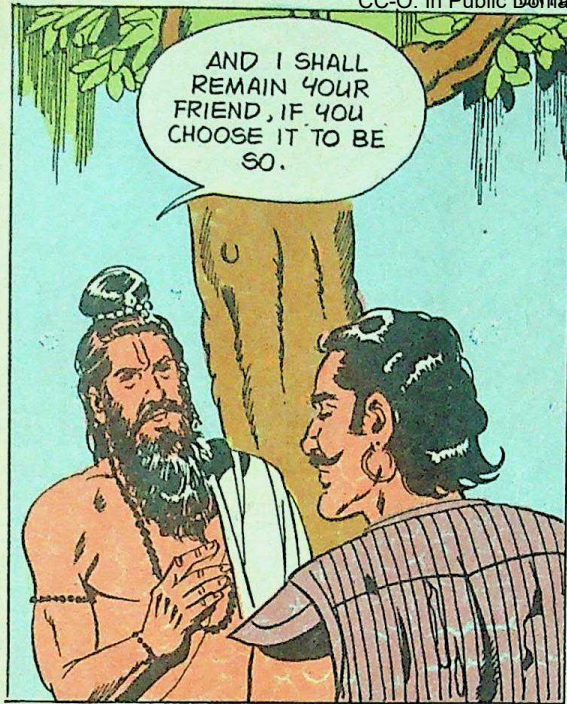


I AM NOW
GIVING HALF YOUR
KINGDOM BACK TO
YOU AS A GIFT. A KING,
IT WAS SAID, COULD
HAVE ONLY ANOTHER
KING AS HIS FRIEND.
THAT WAS WHY
I STROVE FOR
YOUR KINGDOM.



ALL THE TERRITORY TO
THE SOUTH OF BHAGIRATHI
SHALL BE YOUR KINGDOM,
AND ALL THAT TO THE
NORTH, MINE.





AFTER THIS, O MONARCH, DRONA RELEASED THE KING AND PRESENTED HIM WITH HALF HIS KINGDOM. DRUPADA, SAD IN MIND, CHOSE TO STAY IN THE CITY OF KAMPILYA IN THE PROVINCE OF MAKANDI, AND RULED OVER SOUTHERN PANCHALA UP TO THE RIVER CHARMANWATI.

THEN, CONVINCED THAT HIS KSHATRIYA MIGHT WAS NO MATCH AGAINST DRONA, DRUPADA WANDERED ALL OVER THE EARTH WITH THE HOPE OF OBTAINING A MIGHTY SON.

AND DRONA REIGNED OVER THE LAND NAMED AHICHCHHATRA—THE LAND WON BY ARJUNA IN WAR AND BESTOWED UPON HIS GURU. WITH ITS TOWNS AND ITS POPULACE.

THUS ENDS THE SIXTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL CATHARTIC THE MAHABHARATA.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY

Mahabharata-6

Pg.

1. **KARNA कर्णः**
The son of unwed KUNTI by SURYA the Sun-god. Abandoned by KUNTI, he was found and reared by a charioteer and his wife.
VEDA VYASA वेदव्यासः
Literally the man who analysed and compiled the VEDAS — RIK, YAJUS, SAMA and ATHARVA.
BHARATA भारताः
The descendants of King BHARATA, the son of DUSHYANTA and SHAKUNTALA.
VAISHAMPAYANA वैशम्पायनः
JANAMEJAYA जनमेजयः
SARPA SATRA सर्पसत्रं
12-year-long snake sacrifice.
DRONA द्रोणः
The son of sage BHARADWAJA — the chief Guru of the KAURAVAS and the PANDAVAS.
DRUPADA द्रुपदः
King of PANCHALA who humiliated DRONA, his childhood friend.
PANCHALA पञ्चालं
An ancient state.
HASTINAPURA हस्तिनापुरं
Capital of the KURUS on the banks of the GANGA.
BHEESHMA भीष्मः
Son of SHANTANU and GANGA. Lifelong celibate.
ARJUNA अर्जुनः
The third PANDAVA. Son of KUNTI by INDRA king of the DEVAS.
2. **DHRITARASHTRA धृतराष्ट्रः**
Son of VEDA VYASA and AMBIKA. Congenitally blind.
PANDU पाण्डुः
Son of VEDA VYASA and AMBALIKA. His sons the PANDAVAS were born to his two wives through the grace of celestials.
3. **VIDURA विदुरः**
Son of VYASA and AMBIKA's SHOODRA maid.
KURU कुरुः
A descendant of the great king KURU.
KRIPA कृपः
Guru of the KURU princes. Twin brother of DRONA's wife KRIPI.
4. **GANDHARI गान्धारी**
Wife of DHRITARASHTRA. Mother of the 100 KAURAVAS.
5. **KUNTI कुन्ती**
The first wife of PANDU and the mother of the first three PANDAVAS.
6. **ASHWATTHAMA अश्वत्थामा**
Son of KUNTI by DHARMA. The eldest KURU prince, and the eldest PANDAVA.
7. **YUDHISHTHIRA युधिष्ठिरः**
Son of KUNTI by DHARMA. The eldest KURU prince, and the eldest PANDAVA.
8. **BHEEMA भीमः**
Son of KUNTI by VAYU the wind-god. The second PANDAVA.
9. **DURYODHANA दुर्योधनः**
The first of the 100 sons of DHRITARASHTRA and GANDHARI.
10. **7. INDRA इन्द्रः**
King of the DEVAS (celestials) by whose grace ARJUNA was born.
11. **VISHNU विष्णुः**
The second of the Hindu triumvirate identified as the preserver.
12. **PANDAVA पाण्डवः**
Son of PANDU.
13. **DHARMA धर्मः**
The knowledge of what is right.
14. **AGNEYA आग्नेयं**
VARUNA वारुणं
VAYAVA वायवं
BHAUMA भोमं
PARVATA पार्वतं
ANTARDHANA अन्तर्धानं
15. **KAURAVAS कौरवाः**
16. **SURYA सूर्यः**
The Sun-god by whose grace Karna was born to unwed KUNTI.
17. **18. ANGA अङ्गं**
An ancient state.
18. **ADHIRATHA अधिरथः**
The charioteer who found and reared KARNA.
19. **21. KSHATRIYA क्षत्रियः**
Class of people, traditionally engaged in the military arts.
20. **23. YUYUTSU युयुत्सुः**
The son of DHRITARASHTRA and a woman of the VAISHYA class.
21. **24. DUHSHASANA दुःशासनः**
The second of the 100 sons of DHRITARASHTRA and GANDHARI.
22. **26. NAKULA नकुलः**
SAHADEVA सहदेवः
The twin sons of MADRI, the second wife of PANDU. The fourth and fifth PANDAVAS.
23. **27. ASURA असुरः**
One of those denizens of the celestial world characterized by baser passions.
24. **29. GURU DAKSHINA गुरुदक्षिणा**
The fee to be given by a disciple to his Guru as consideration for instruction imparted.
25. **30. BRAHMANAS ब्राह्मणाः**
Class of people traditionally engaged in learning and scholastics.
26. **ASHRAMA आश्रमं**
Hermitage.
27. **BHAGIRATHI भागीरथी**
Another name for river Ganga.
28. **31. KAMPILYA काम्पिल्यं**
MAKANDI माकन्दी
CHARMANWATI चर्मण्वती
The river now known as Chambal.
29. **AHICHCHHATRA अहिच्छत्र**
ITIHASA इतिहास
An Epic — Literally "And so indeed it was."

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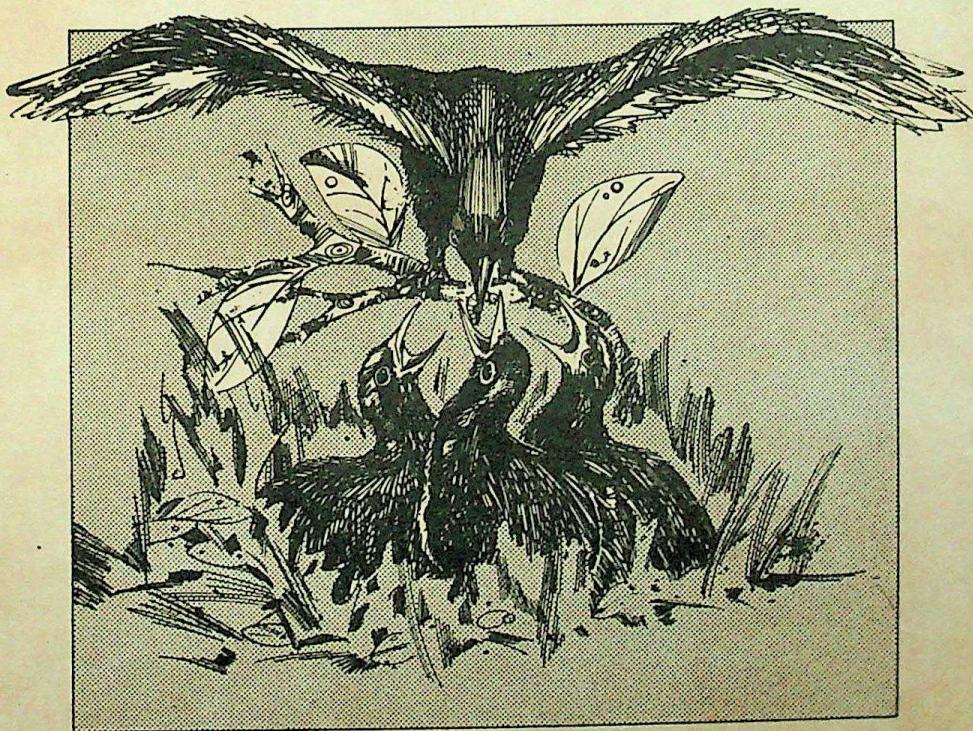
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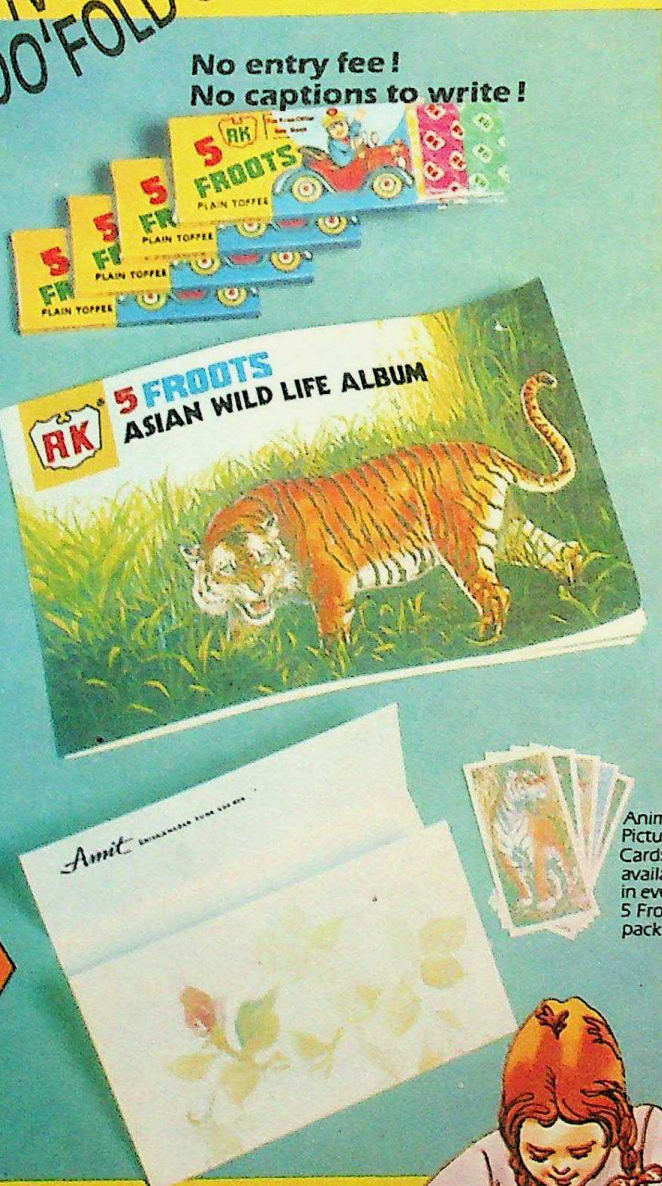
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